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# SEC

**2013 PREVIEW**

» TOP 25  
» QB BATTLES  
» RECRUITING  
» COACHES ON THE HOT SEAT

**ALL 125  
FBS TEAMS  
RANKED**

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MANZIEL  
Q&A**

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## HEAD of THE CLASS

South Carolina defensive end Jadeveon Clowney, whose hair-raising hit on Michigan running back Vincent Smith in the Outback Bowl was the most electrifying moment of bowl season, could make history by becoming the first defensive player since Charles Woodson in 1997 to win the Heisman Trophy. Even if he comes up short in the Heisman sweepstakes, Clowney is on the short list of college football's best players.

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# EDITOR'S LETTER

**A**t this time next year, you will find Athlon Sports' first-ever predictions for a playoff at the highest level of college football. We will still rank every team and have our conference-by-conference predictions, but my guess is that we will make a pretty big deal about the four teams we are forecasting to advance to the first College Football Playoff.

Those four teams, it was recently announced, will meet in a pair of semifinal games on New Year's Eve with a title game on the first Monday of the following week. The semifinals will rotate among six existing bowl games — Peach (formerly Chick-fil-A), Cotton, Fiesta, Orange, Rose and Sugar — with the Rose and Sugar earning the right to host the first pair of semifinals in 2014. The initial national championship game will be played at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas. The title game, unlike the semifinals, will not necessarily be at existing bowl sites; it will be bid out each year like the Super Bowl or Final Four.

In the short term, I like this plan. Fans of the four teams lucky enough to qualify for the initial College Football Playoff will no doubt travel in force to watch these games. But my worry is that the semifinals will, over time, lose some of their luster. With the same batch of teams likely to reach the "Football Four" (Can we call it that?) on a consistent basis, will fans be willing to make two trips in consecutive weeks to watch their team? Some will. But a lot of others won't. We might see a semifinal game at the Rose Bowl played between Georgia and Oklahoma in front of 50,000. Or Oregon vs. Michigan in the Orange Bowl in front of 35,000.

The solution is easy: Play the semifinal games on campus sites. You think Death Valley in Baton Rouge is special on a Saturday night. How about playing a national semifinal in Tiger Stadium on New Year's Eve. Think that would be an intense atmosphere?

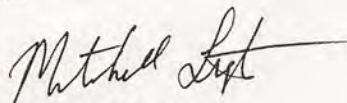
The only negative: This would put a huge burden on the selection committee. The difference between a No. 2 seed (and a home game) and a No. 3 seed (a road trip) is rather large. But we shouldn't simply assume that a home field would guarantee a win. This past season, SEC road teams were a respectable 26–29 on the road in league play. Elite teams, and the teams in the "Football Four" will be elite, find ways to win on the road — even in difficult environments. Alabama won at LSU. Texas A&M won at Alabama. LSU and Florida won at Texas A&M. Sure, it's advantageous to play at home, but a No. 3 or 4 seed wouldn't equal sure death.

If the "Football Four" was in play in 2013, the semifinals, based on our predictions, would pit Alabama (1) vs. Georgia (4) and Ohio State (2) vs. Oregon (3). In the neutral site plan currently in place, the Alabama-Georgia game likely would be played at the Sugar Bowl and the Ohio State-Oregon game at the Rose Bowl. The rules stipulate that the higher-seeded team will not be forced to play in a road setting. While the Rose Bowl is in Pac-12 country, it's a bit of a stretch to call Los Angeles a home game for the Ducks.

The new system isn't perfect. But it's a step in the right direction.

What are your thoughts on the new College Football Playoff? Let us know via email at [editor@athlonsports.com](mailto:editor@athlonsports.com) or via Twitter, @athlonsports.

Enjoy the final season of the BCS!



*Mitchell Light*  
Executive Editor

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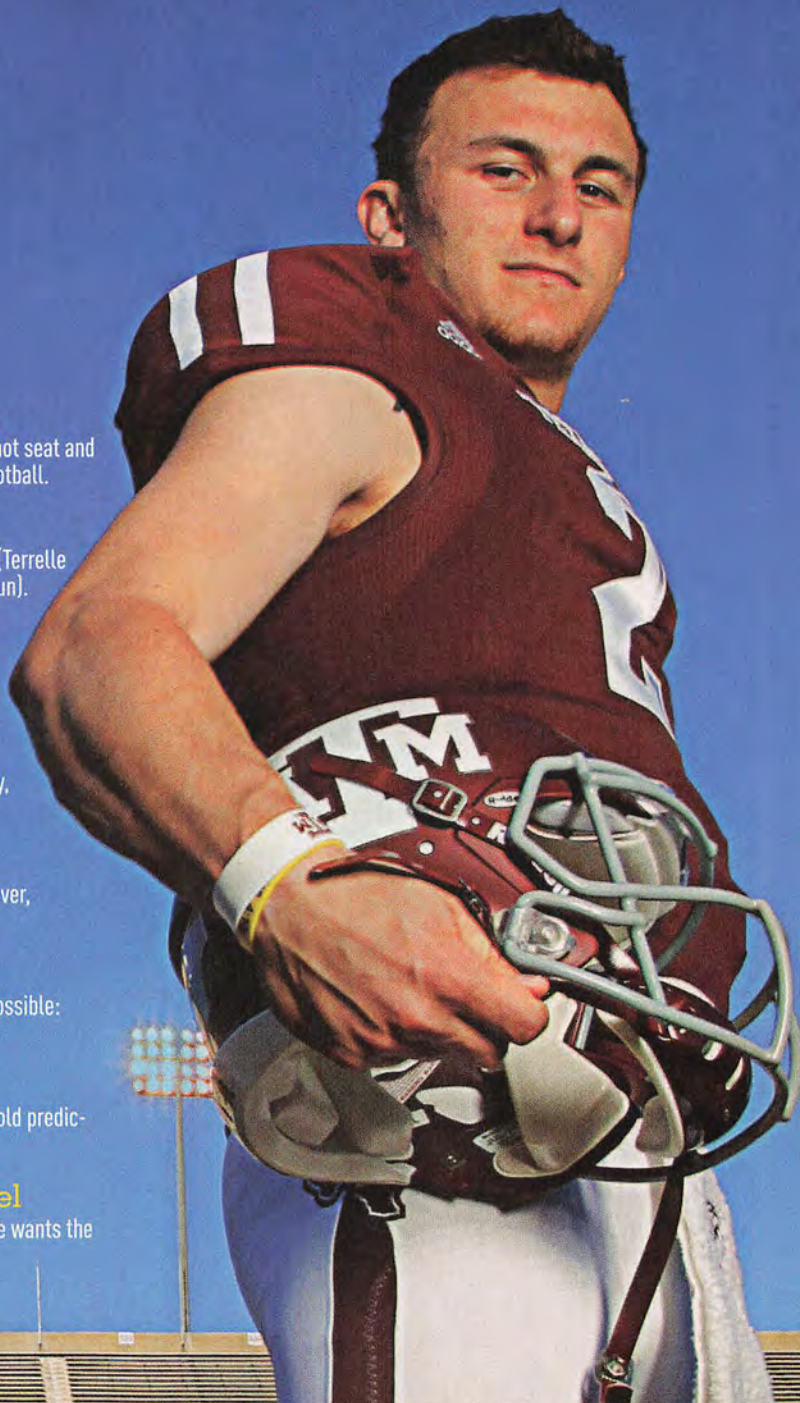
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# COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## CONTENTS

- 10** **Extra Points**  
Quarterback battles, Heisman contenders, coaches on the hot seat and much more in our annual peek under the hood of college football.
- 24** **Top 40 Recruits of 2008**  
The 2008 recruiting class was a typically mixed bag of hits (Terrelle Pryor, Julio Jones) and misses (Darrell Scott, Jermie Calhoun).
- 28** **Recruiting & Social Media**  
Twitter, Instagram and other social media outlets have changed the way schools, recruits and fans communicate.
- 32** **The Heisman Revolution**  
Freshmen, offensive linemen, defensive players — suddenly, nothing is off limits when it comes to Heisman voting.
- 36** **Under a Microscope**  
In the YouTube era, and with passions running higher than ever, referees are under an unprecedented degree of scrutiny.
- 40** **Defenseless**  
Defensive coordinators have 20 hours a week to do the impossible: Prepare their troops to stop today's unstoppable offenses.
- 44** **Editor's Roundtable**  
Athlon editors lay their reputations on the line with some bold predictions and out-of-the-box analysis.
- 48** **Exclusive Q&A with Johnny Manziel**  
Johnny Football has the coveted personal hardware. Now he wants the crystal ball.



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COLLEGE  
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## CONTENTS

<b>Preseason Top 25</b>	<b>50</b>
The SEC is poised to make it eight in a row. But the Pac-12 and Big Ten won't go without a fight.	
<b>Conference Predictions</b>	<b>60</b>
A league-by-league look at what to expect.	
<b>FCS Preview</b>	<b>62</b>
A word of caution to Kansas State: You're opening your season with Athlon's pick for the FCS champion.	
<b>Athlon Sports All-America Team</b>	<b>64</b>
Johnny Manziel and Jadeveon Clowney are the headliners of another bumper crop.	
<b>Unit Rankings</b>	<b>66</b>
Who has the best backs in the Big Ten? The top QBs in the ACC? The SEC's superlative secondary?	
<b>Recruiting Roundup</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Sideline Spirit</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>2013 Schedules</b>	<b>90</b>

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# eXtra POINTS

## Top 12 Quarterback Battles



### ARIZONA

Matt Scott's eligibility expired after the New Mexico Bowl, leaving a wide-open battle for Arizona's job this spring. B.J. Denker served as the backup last season and made one start (Colorado). Denker has the edge in experience, but he will be pushed by junior college transfer and former USC Trojan Jesse Scroggins, redshirt freshman Javelle Allen and true freshman Anu Solomon. **Projected Winner: Denker**

### AUBURN

Gus Malzahn's return to Auburn should benefit Kiehl Frazier — who was recruited to the Plains by Malzahn — and Jonathan Wallace, as both quarterbacks struggled in last season's pro-style attack. Frazier and Wallace will be pushed by junior college recruit (and former Georgia defensive back) Nick Marshall and true freshman Jeremy Johnson this fall. Considering that the newcomers won't arrive until the fall, this battle is likely to be decided between Frazier and Wallace. **Projected Winner: Frazier**

### CALIFORNIA

The Golden Bears opened spring practice with seven quarterbacks vying for the starting spot. Redshirt freshman Zach Kline, true freshman Jared Goff and junior Austin Hinder finished as the top three options, but none has thrown a pass at the FBS level. Kline ranked as the No. 4 quarterback in the nation by Athlon Sports in the 2012 signing class, while Goff impressed in his first semester on campus. **Projected Winner: Kline**

### KANSAS STATE

Despite losing quarterback Collin Klein, Kansas State's offense is still in good shape. The offensive line is among the best in the Big 12, and running back John Hubert is back after rushing for 947 yards last year. Daniel Sams served as Klein's backup in 2012, rushing for 235 yards and three touchdowns in limited work. Battling Sams for the top spot is Jake Waters, who ranked as the top junior college quarterback in the nation, throwing for 3,501 yards at Iowa Western Community College in 2012. **Projected Winner: Sams**

Sams: Tim Unmuthrey; Sams: Joe Koschick



## MICHIGAN STATE

The Spartans sorely missed Kirk Cousins last year, as the offense averaged only 20 points per game and ranked ninth in the Big Ten with 359.3 yards per game. Andrew Maxwell started all 13 games last season but completed only 52.5 percent of his throws and averaged just 200.5 yards per game. Connor Cook gave Michigan State's offense a spark in the bowl game and is in the mix, along with Tyler O'Connor and true freshman Damion Terry. **Projected Winner: Maxwell**

## PENN STATE

Steven Bench, the most experienced quarterback on the roster (with eight attempts) left the program after spring practice, creating a two-way battle to replace Matt McGloin. Junior college transfer Tyler Ferguson and true freshman Christian Hackenberg — the No. 13 recruit in the 2013 Athlon Consensus 100 — will do their best to impress coach Bill O'Brien during the fall. If Hackenberg is as good as advertised, O'Brien won't hesitate to let the freshman play. **Projected Winner: Hackenberg**

## OKLAHOMA

After playing a part-time role the last two seasons, Blake Bell is the favorite to be Oklahoma's No. 1 quarterback in 2013. Bell has rushed for 24 touchdowns in his career but has thrown only 20 passes. While Bell has a lead over redshirt freshman Trevor Knight and sophomore Kendal Thompson, this job is far from settled. Knight had an impressive spring and also brings dual-threat ability to the offense. **Projected Winner: Bell**

## OKLAHOMA STATE

Coach Mike Gundy has indicated that Clint Chelf will open the year as the No. 1 quarterback. But this battle could extend into the season. Chelf finished 2012 as the starter, throwing for 13 touchdowns over the final five games. Wes Lunt opened last year as the starter as a true freshman, but injuries kept him out of the lineup for most of the season. Lunt has the option to redshirt in 2013. J.W. Walsh is the best dual-threat option out of the trio and could see snaps in special packages if he's not the starter. **Projected Winner: Chelf**

## OREGON STATE

The good news for coach Mike Riley is that the Beavers have two proven starting quarterbacks. The bad news? Neither played well enough last season to secure the top spot. Sean Mannion opened 2012 as Oregon State's No. 1 quarterback, but a knee injury forced him out of action, which opened the door for Cody Vaz. Although Vaz isn't as talented as Mannion, he seems to have the trust of the coaching staff and threw only three picks in 185 attempts. **Projected Winner: Vaz**

## USC

Matt Barkley departs after throwing for 12,327 yards in his career, leaving true freshman Max Browne and sophomores Max Wittek and Cody Kessler competing for the No. 1 job. After Barkley suffered a shoulder injury against UCLA, Wittek started the final two games and completed just 28-of-60 passes. Kessler completed both of his attempts in mop-up duty last year, while Browne is one of the top quarterbacks in the 2013 signing class. Kessler had the better spring, but Wittek is the preferred choice of the coaching staff. **Projected Winner: Wittek**

## WEST VIRGINIA

Junior Paul Millard (34 pass attempts) is battling redshirt freshman Ford Childress for the right to replace Geno Smith. Millard backed up Smith the last two years and most of his playing time was in mop-up duty. Childress is the son of a former NFL lineman and was ranked as the No. 18 quarterback in the nation by Athlon Sports in the 2012 signing class. Millard has more experience, but Childress might have more upside. This will be a battle. **Projected Winner: Millard**



## WISCONSIN

Curt Phillips stabilized Wisconsin's quarterback play last season after an injury sidelined Joel Stave and Danny O'Brien was benched due to ineffectiveness. But Phillips could be the odd man out this season, as Stave turned in a solid spring, and junior college recruit Tanner McEvoy is a good fit for new coach Gary Andersen's offense. Stave threw for 1,104 yards and six scores last season but doesn't offer anything on the ground. McEvoy is a dual-threat who could thrive in coordinator Andy Ludwig's attack.

**Projected Winner: Stave**



# Conference Rankings

EXTRA POINTS

## 1. SEC

Favorite: Alabama

The SEC increased its run of national championships to seven straight thanks to Alabama's dominating win over Notre Dame in the BCS title game. The Crimson Tide are our pick to win it all again, but Texas A&M, Georgia, South Carolina, LSU and Florida could all play their way into the national title discussion. Texas A&M is loaded once again, but the Aggies will have to deal with huge expectations. LSU lost a ton of key personnel on defense but still has one of the most talented rosters in the nation. Vanderbilt and Ole Miss, two up-and-coming programs, are just outside the top 25.

## 2. PAC-12

Favorite: Oregon

Oregon lost its leader — head coach Chip Kelly — but the Ducks have enough pieces in place to win the Pac-12 title for the fourth time in the past five seasons. New coach Mark Helfrich will lean on sophomore quarterback Marcus Mariota and a talented corps of skill players. Stanford will remain among the elite in the Pac-12 thanks to an outstanding defense and one of the nation's top offensive lines. The South Division race should be intriguing. Our pick is Arizona State — which returns quarterback Taylor Kelly and eight starters on defense — but you could make a case for USC, UCLA or Arizona.

## 3. BIG TEN

Favorite: Ohio State

The Big Ten boasts a legitimate national title contender in Ohio State, which returns 13 starters from a team that went 12-0 in Urban Meyer's inaugural season in Columbus. Wisconsin, under new leadership with Gary Andersen, and Penn State should both be solid, but neither figures to pose too much of a threat to Ohio State in the Leaders Division. The Legends race, however, should be tight. Our pick is Michigan to edge Nebraska, but always-underrated Northwestern will be a factor.

## 4. BIG 12

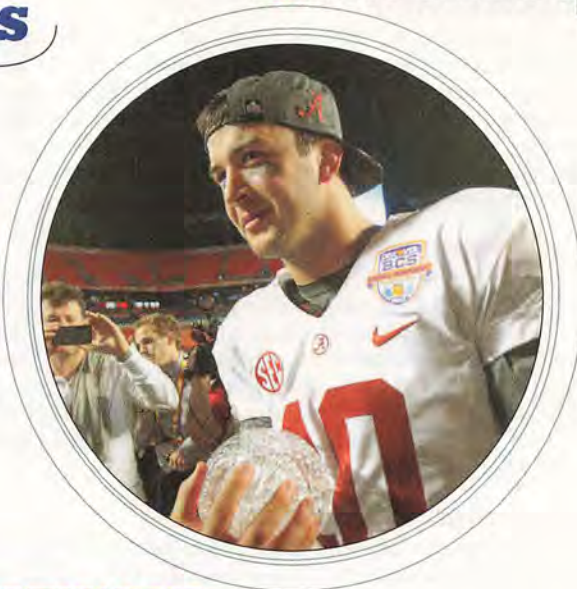
Favorite: Oklahoma State

The Big 12 features quality depth but lacks star power at the top. Oklahoma State is ranked No. 16 in our preseason top 25 — the lowest spot for the preseason favorite in the 18-year history of the league. There was heavy debate for the next three spots. Oklahoma, despite its concerns at the quarterback position — Can the Belldozer be a weapon in the passing game? — got the nod over Texas and TCU. The Longhorns have plenty of talent, but they must show significant improvement on defense. TCU will be a legitimate title threat if quarterback Casey Pachall returns to form.

## 5. ACC

Favorite: Clemson

Led by quarterback Tajh Boyd and wideout Sammy Watkins, Clemson is the favorite to win its second ACC title in the past three seasons. The Tigers have won 21 games over the last two years and are in the midst of shedding their label as chronic underachievers. Florida State appears to be the only worthy challenger to Clemson in the Atlantic Division. There are four teams capable of winning the Coastal Division. Miami is our pick, followed by Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech and North Carolina.



## 6. MOUNTAIN WEST

Favorite: Boise State

The Mountain West, now up to 12 teams and two divisions, is stronger than ever. Boise State is the team to beat in the Mountain Division, though league newcomer Utah State, which went 6-0 in the WAC in 2012, should be a factor in the division race. The return of quarterback Derek Carr makes Fresno State the easy choice in the West Division. The Bulldogs should score a ton of points. The West has solid depth, with San Jose State, San Diego State and Nevada each likely to play in a bowl game.

## 7. AMERICAN

Favorite: Louisville

The league formerly known as the Big East continues its descent down the college football food chain, but that doesn't mean the league is without quality teams. Louisville, fresh off its BCS bowl win over Florida, is capable of running the table in the regular season. Cincinnati, now under Tommy Tuberville's watch, returns 13 starters (including all five O-linemen) from a 10-win team. Rutgers will have to fight off league newcomer UCF for third.

## 8. MAC

Favorite: Northern Illinois

Last season, the MAC sent its first team to a BCS bowl (Northern Illinois) and had four different schools ranked nationally at some point. This year, the power remains in the West, where NIU has the edge over Ball State and Toledo. Bowling Green is the pick in the East, but it's not wise to count out Ohio and coach Frank Solich. The Bobcats have won three division titles under Solich but have not won the outright MAC title since 1968.

## 9. CONFERENCE USA

Favorite: Tulsa

Conference USA is up to 14 teams, but the league is weaker in 2013 due to the loss of UCF, Houston and SMU (among others) to the American Athletic Conference. Tulsa, which will make the move to the American in 2014, is a strong favorite to win its second straight C-USA crown. The race in the East should be intriguing. Our pick is Marshall over East Carolina.

## 10. SUN BELT

Favorite: UL Lafayette

The Sun Belt lost four teams to Conference USA but did retain the defending league champ (Arkansas State) and two of the three teams (UL Lafayette and ULM) that tied for second place. Moving forward, ULL has a great opportunity to claim its first outright league title since winning the Gulf States Conference in 1970.

Tom D'Arcy

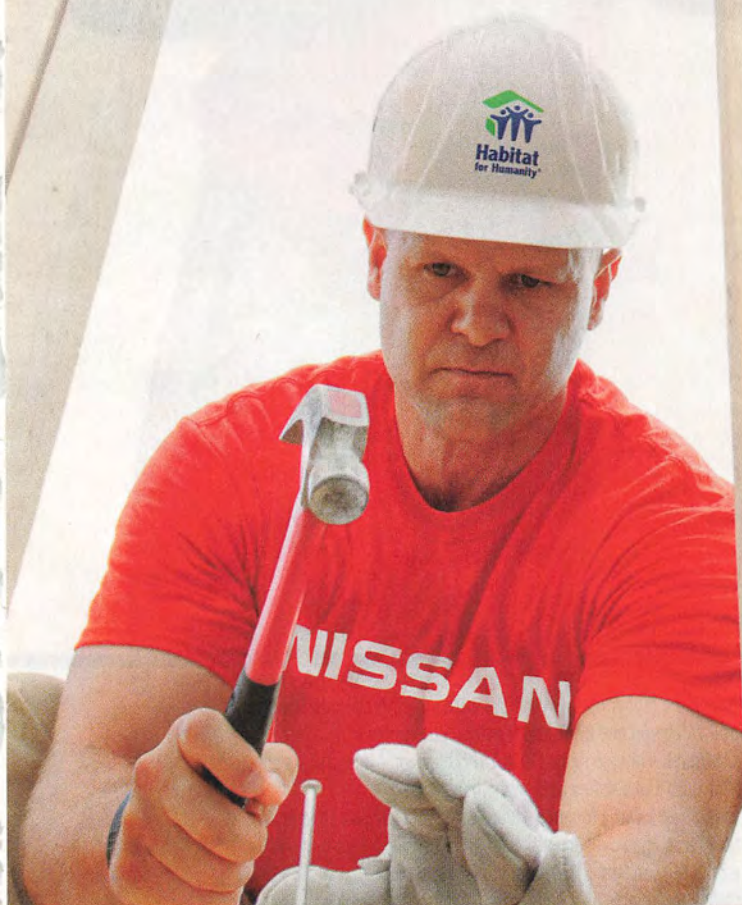




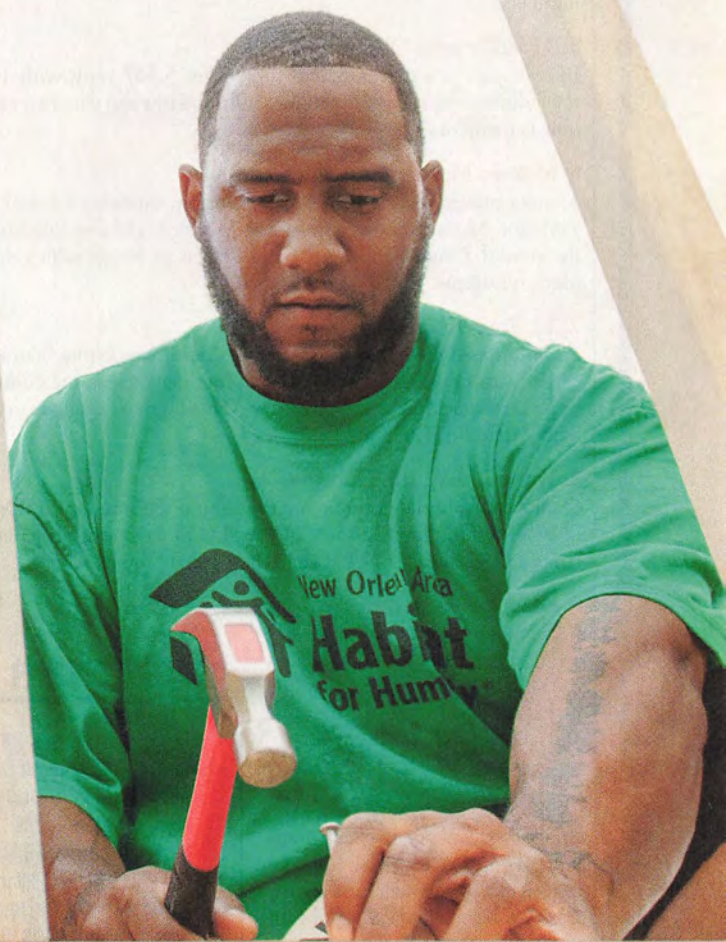
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# Heisman Contenders

## 1. BRAXTON MILLER

QB, Ohio State

As expected, Miller thrived in Urban Meyer's attack as a sophomore.

He was one of three players nationally to top 2,000 yards passing and 1,200 yards rushing. Expect even better numbers in '13.

## 2. Johnny Manziel, QB, Texas A&M

Can the defending Heisman winner replicate his obscene numbers from 2012? Not likely, but he is still the most exciting — and productive — player in college football.

## 3. Jadeveon Clowney, DE, South Carolina

He's undoubtedly the best player in college football, but will Clowney make enough highlight-reel plays to become the second defensive player to win the Heisman? Stay tuned.

## 4. Tajh Boyd, QB, Clemson

Boyd was spectacular as a junior, throwing for 3,896 yards with 36 touchdowns and 13 interceptions. He loses his top target, DeAndre Hopkins, but the talented Sammy Watkins will put up huge numbers.

## 5. AJ McCarron, QB, Alabama

In two years as a starter, he has thrown for 5,567 yards with 46 touchdowns and eight interceptions. Oh, and he's also won two national championships.

## 6. Marcus Mariota, QB, Oregon

Mariota proved to be a perfect fit at Oregon, throwing for 2,677 yards and 32 touchdowns and adding 752 yards and five scores on the ground. Cause for concern: Chip Kelly is no longer calling the plays in Eugene.

## 7. T.J. Yeldon, RB, Alabama

Yeldon topped the 1,000-yard mark as a freshman despite sharing carries with Eddie Lacy. With a more prominent role in the Crimson Tide's attack, he could challenge Mark Ingram's single-season school record of 1,658 yards.

## 8. Todd Gurley, RB, Georgia

Gurley ended his fantastic freshman season (1,385 yards, 17 TDs) in style, rushing for 122 yards in the SEC title game against Alabama and 125 against Nebraska in the Capital One Bowl.

## 9. Ka'Deem Carey, RB, Arizona

If Carey can stay out of trouble and avoid any injuries, he should make a run at 2,000 yards. As a sophomore, he led the nation with 1,929 yards and rushed for 23 touchdowns.

## 10. Teddy Bridgewater, QB, Louisville

Bridgewater will put up gaudy numbers playing for a team that has a decent chance at an undefeated regular season. That formula will put him in the Heisman chase.

## NEXT TIER

11. De'Anthony Thomas, RB, Oregon Would be higher up this list if he were guaranteed more touches.
12. Brett Hundley, QB, UCLA Threw for 3,740 yards and 29 TDs as a redshirt freshman.
13. Aaron Murray, QB, Georgia Needs to limit his interceptions (10 in 2012) to become a legitimate candidate.
14. Marqise Lee, WR, USC Led the nation with 118 catches as a sophomore.
15. Lache Seastrunk, RB, Baylor Rushed for 831 yards (on an 8.1-yard average) over last six games.
16. Duke Johnson, RB, Miami Closed true freshman season with 492 yards rushing in last four games.
17. Taylor Martinez, QB, Nebraska Led the Big Ten with 277.9 total yards per game.
18. Sammy Watkins, WR, Clemson Poised to rebound as a junior after taking a step back as a sophomore.
19. Jordan Lynch, QB, Northern Illinois First player in FBS history to throw for 3,000 and rush for 1,500 yards.
20. Venric Mark, RB, Northwestern Rushed for 1,366 yards and averaged 18.7 yards on punt returns.



Joe Robbins



# ATHLON SPORTS 2013

# EXTRA POINTS

## Johnny Unitas® Golden Arm Award® Watch List

Blake Bortles, UCF

Tajh Boyd, Clemson

Kolton Browning, ULM

Kain Colter, Northwestern

Derek Carr, Fresno State

Jeff Driskel, Florida

Cody Fajardo, Nevada

David Fales, San Jose State

James Franklin, Missouri

Cody Green, Tulsa

Taylor Kelly, Arizona State

Jordan Lynch, Northern Illinois

Sean Mannion, Oregon State

Taylor Martinez, Nebraska

AJ McCarron, Alabama

Stephen Morris, Miami

Aaron Murray, Georgia

Keith Price, Washington

Bryn Renner, North Carolina

Corey Robinson, Troy

Connor Shaw, South Carolina

Joe Southwick, Boise State

Tyler Tettleton, Ohio

Logan Thomas, Virginia Tech

Keith Wenning, Ball State

*The Golden Arm Award, presented annually to the top senior quarterback — as qualified by academic year — by the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Foundation, encapsulates all that is good in college sports. The award acknowledges performance on the field, for sure. However, it goes beyond completion percentage and touchdown passes. The Golden Arm Award rewards character, citizenship, integrity and those who honor the game.*

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2012 Winner Collin Klein  
of Kansas State




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# Coaches on the Hot Seat

## 1. LANE KIFFIN

USC (25-13, three seasons)

USC entered the 2012 season with national championship aspirations. They ended it with a 7-6 record, the school's worst since 2001. Kiffin is dealing with reduced scholarships due to NCAA sanctions from the Pete Carroll era, but there is no denying that his tenure has been a disappointment.

## 2. BOBBY HAUCK

UNLV (6-32, three seasons)

Hauck went 80-17 in seven seasons at Montana but has found life a bit more difficult in Las Vegas. He has won exactly two games in each of his three seasons and is 0-2 against FCS competition.

## 3. PAUL PASQUALONI

UConn (10-14, two seasons)

The Huskies averaged 8.3 wins in the four seasons prior to Pasqualoni's arrival. Since, they have gone 5-7 and 5-7. Last year, UConn ranked 118th in the nation in scoring offense, down 36 spots from 82nd in 2011. The Huskies have been mediocre and boring — a bad combination.



## 4. RON ENGLISH

Eastern Michigan

(10-38, four seasons)

The Eagles enjoyed a breakthrough in 2011 — winning six games for the first time since 1995 — but reverted back to form last season with a 2-10 record. This is clearly one of the most difficult jobs in the nation, but it's tough to look past the fact that EMU has won no more than two games in three of English's four seasons.

## 5. MACK BROWN

Texas (150-43, 15 seasons)

Brown has done tremendous work at Texas, but the Longhorns have hit a rough patch in recent seasons. Since losing the national title game to Alabama in January 2010, Texas is 22-16 overall and an unthinkable 11-15 in the Big 12. The Longhorns have ranked sixth, seventh and eighth in the league in total offense in the past three seasons, respectively. These are unacceptable numbers at a school like Texas.



## 6. MIKE LONDON

Virginia (16-21, three seasons)

The Cavaliers went 8-5 overall and 5-3 in the ACC in 2011, London's second season, but slumped to 4-8 and 2-6 last fall. He is 8-16 in the ACC in three seasons and 0-3 against rival Virginia Tech. Virginia did have some good wins last season (Penn State, NC State, Miami), but the Cavs lost to Wake Forest and Maryland at home and by 25 points at Duke.

## 7. KIRK FERENTZ

Iowa (100-74, 14 seasons)

Ferentz has won a bunch of games at Iowa, but the program has grown stale in recent years. The Hawkeyes haven't had a winning Big Ten record since 2009 and slumped to 4-8 overall (2-6 in the league) in 2012. He is unlikely to be fired — thanks to an enormous buyout — but it might be time for a change in Iowa City.

## 8. TIM BECKMAN

Illinois (2-10, one season)

It's only been one season for Beckman, but that one season was a disaster. Illinois went winless in the Big Ten (and was outscored by an average of 23.4 points in those eight games) and ranked 119th nationally in both scoring offense and total offense. The season ended with a demoralizing 50-14 loss at rival Northwestern.

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Who are the  
10 worst coaches  
in college football?

AthlonSports.com/  
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## GETTING WARM

Rich Ellerson, Army (17-31, four seasons)

Ellerson won a total of 12 games in his first two seasons — the best two-year stretch at West Point since 1996-97 — but has gone 5-19 since. Last year, the Black Knights were good enough to beat Boston College and Air Force but also lost to Stony Brook and Eastern Michigan. It's tough to win at Army, but the other two service academies have been able to win on a consistent basis over the past decade.

Doc Holliday, Marshall (17-20, three seasons)

Marshall hasn't been bad under Holliday's watch, but the Thundering Herd have lost more than they've won in two of his three seasons. It's been a decade since Marshall has been a consistent winner, and this is a demanding fan base.

Tony Levine, Houston (5-7, one season)

Nobody expected Levine to match the 13-1 record from the 2011 season, but winning only five games was a disappointment. The Cougars regressed on offense (scoring was down by 17 points per game), but the biggest issue was a defense that ranked 115th in the nation.

Gary Pinkel, Missouri (90-61, 12 seasons)

Mizzou had to deal with a ton of injuries, but its first season in the SEC did not go well. The Tigers went 2-6 in league play, with wins over Kentucky (0-8 SEC) and Tennessee (1-7). With six consecutive seasons with at least eight wins from 2006-11, Pinkel had earned the right to have one bad season, but it's important for Missouri to show some progress in its second year in the SEC.

Jeff Quinn, Buffalo (9-27, three seasons)

Buffalo won 18 games in Turner Gill's final three years at the school. Quinn, a former Brian Kelly assistant at Cincinnati, has only nine wins in his three seasons. The Bulls did show progress in 2012, but their 6-18 record in MAC play since 2010 is the second-worst in the league in that span.






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# Ranking the **New Coaches** from 2012

## 1. URBAN MEYER, OHIO STATE

Before: 6-7 (3-5); After: 12-0 (8-0)

The Buckeyes weren't quite as dominant as their 8-0 record in the Big Ten suggests — they outgained their eight league opponents by only 80.1 yards per game, the fifth-best margin in the conference — but it's hard to argue with perfection. The six-game improvement was the best by a first-year coach.



## 2. KEVIN SUMLIN, TEXAS A&M

Before: 7-6 (4-5 Big 12); After: 11-2 (6-2 SEC)

No program has seen its national profile change more in one year than Texas A&M. Johnny Manziel deserves a ton of the credit, but Sumlin did a tremendous job changing the culture in College Station. Don't be surprised if the Aggies win a national title in the next few years.



## 3. BILL O'BRIEN, PENN STATE

Before: 9-4 (6-2); After: 8-4 (6-2)

The record was basically the same, but that doesn't come close to telling the story of O'Brien's first season in State College. The first-time head coach did a tremendous job as the CEO of a program dealing with unprecedented sanctions. He did a great job on the field as well. The Nittany Lions increased their scoring by nearly 10 points per game despite losing their top running back (Silas Redd) and top wide receiver (Justin Brown), who both transferred over the summer.

## 4. HUGH FREEZE, OLE MISS

Before: 2-10 (0-8); After: 7-6 (3-5)

Freeze's biggest victories came on National Signing Day — the Rebels' recruiting class is ranked No. 6 by Athlon Sports — but he also did a tremendous job on the field. Ole Miss went from zero wins to three wins in the SEC, and lost two games (Texas A&M, Vanderbilt) in which it held a double-digit second-half lead.



## 5. JUSTIN FUENTE, MEMPHIS

Before: 2-10 (1-7); After: 4-8 (4-4)

Fuente did an excellent job picking up the pieces after the failed Larry Porter experiment. The Tigers ended the season on a three-game winning streak and won four games in Conference USA — twice as many as they won in the three previous seasons combined.

## 6. GUS MALZAHN, ARKANSAS STATE

Before: 10-3 (8-0); After: 10-3 (7-1)

Malzahn's lone season in Jonesboro produced a Sun Belt title and the school's first bowl win as an FBS member. The Red Wolves lost three of their first five but ended the year on an eight-game winning streak.

## 7. TIM DERUYTER, FRESNO STATE

Before: 4-9 (3-4 WAC); After: 9-4 (7-1 MWC)

Fresno State very quietly had an outstanding first season under DeRuyter. The Bulldogs went 7-1 in their first year in the Mountain West — a step up in competition from the WAC — and were vastly improved on both offense and defense.

## 8. JIM MORA, UCLA

Before: 6-8 (5-4); After: 9-5 (6-3)

UCLA ended the year on a three-game losing streak (with two of the losses coming to Stanford), but Mora's first season was a big success. The Bruins won five straight in the Pac-12 — their longest such streak since 2005 — and beat rival USC for the first time since 2006.



## 9. BOB DAVIE, NEW MEXICO

Before: 1-11 (1-6); After: 4-9 (1-7)

New Mexico won only one conference game in 2012, but the Lobos were significantly better in Davie's first season. Want some evidence? The Lobos' scoring differential last fall was minus-4.4 points per game; in '11, it was minus-29.7 points per game.

## 10. TODD GRAHAM, ARIZONA STATE

Before: 6-7 (4-5); After: 8-5 (5-4)

Graham guided Arizona State to its first winning season since 2007 and its first bowl victory since 2005. The Sun Devils were dramatically improved on defense — they climbed 64 spots in the national rankings — and capped the regular season with a 41-34 win at rival Arizona.

Meyer: Joe Robbins/Sumlin: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Freeze: Paul Levy; Mora: Peter Broutillet; Rodriguez: Mike Moore; Chrys: Bruce Schwartzman; Weiss: Ric Fegol



## 11. RICH RODRIGUEZ, ARIZONA

Before: 4-8 (2-7); After: 8-5 (4-5)

Other than the loss at home to Arizona State in the regular-season finale, Rodriguez's first year was a success. The Wildcats ranked seventh nationally in total offense (but were a train wreck on defense).



## 12. LARRY FEDORA, NORTH CAROLINA

Before: 7-6 (3-5); After: 8-4 (5-3)

The Heels won eight games in Fedora's first season — and it could have been more. They lost by one point to Wake Forest, by five to Louisville and by three to Duke.

## 13. KYLE FLOOD, RUTGERS

Before: 9-4 (4-3); After: 9-4 (5-2)

Rutgers appeared on its way to the outright Big East title and a spot in a BCS bowl, but the Scarlet Knights, needing only one win, lost their final two games.

## 14. PAUL CHRYST, PITTSBURGH

Before: 6-7 (4-3); After: 6-7 (3-4)

The Panthers took a step back in Big East play with a 3-4 record, but Chryst has added some much-needed stability to a program that has had four head coaches in the past three seasons.



## 15. MATT CAMPBELL, TOLEDO

Before: 9-4 (7-1); After: 9-4 (6-2)

Toledo matched its win total from the previous season, but the Rockets took a small step back in the league and averaged 10.7 points per game fewer than in 2011.

## 16. CARL PELINI, FLORIDA ATLANTIC

Before: 1-11 (0-8); After: 3-9 (2-6)

The Owls played relatively well in the latter half of the season. They beat Troy and Western Kentucky, and each of their last four losses came by 14 points or less.

## 17. JIM MCELWAIN, COLORADO STATE

Before: 3-9 (1-6); After: 4-8 (3-5)

The Rams opened the year by beating Colorado and ended the year by winning three of the final five. In between, they lost six straight games, all by 12 points or more.

## 18. CURTIS JOHNSON, TULANE

Before: 2-11 (1-7); After: 2-10 (2-6)

Tulane suffered through injuries to key personnel that stunted its growth in the first season under Johnson, a former assistant with the Saints.

## 19. GARRICK MCGEE, UAB

Before: 3-9 (3-5); After: 3-9 (2-6)

The Blazers lost three C-USA games by 10 points or less and climbed 31 spots in the national rankings in total offense and 30 spots in total defense.

## 20. TONY LEVINE, HOUSTON

Before: 13-1 (8-0); After: 5-7 (4-4)

Houston still accumulated a ton of yards, but its scoring decreased by 17 points per game, and the defense ranked 115th in the nation.

## 21. MIKE LEACH, WASHINGTON STATE

Before: 4-8 (2-7); After: 3-9 (1-8)

The Cougars won one fewer game and actually regressed offensively. In 2011, Wazzu averaged 422.4 yards and 29.8 points per game. Under Leach's watch, those numbers dipped to 359.5 and 20.4.

## 22. TERRY BOWDEN, AKRON

Before: (1-11, 0-8); After: (1-11, 0-8)

The Zips were bad before Bowden and bad with Bowden. They were, however, more competitive in league play. In 2011, Akron was outgained by an average of 177.0 yards in MAC games; in '12, they "improved" to minus-55.9 yards per game.

## 23. CHARLEY MOLNAR, UMASS

Before: 5-6 (3-5 CAA); After: 1-11 (1-7 MAC)

It was a rough first season for Molnar and the Minutemen, who went 1-11 in their first year in the FBS ranks. During one especially painful stretch, UMass lost to Bowling Green, Vanderbilt and Northern Illinois by a combined score of 136-7.

## 24. CHARLIE WEIS, KANSAS

Before: 2-10 (0-9); After: 1-11 (0-9)

Weis' first season at Kansas did not go well — the Jayhawks were the only AQ conference team that did not beat an FBS opponent in 2012 — but there were some signs of progress. KU improved 13 spots in the national rankings in total offense and seven spots in total defense, and three of its Big 12 losses came by seven points or less.



## 25. NORM CHOW, HAWAII

Before: 6-7 (3-4); After: 3-9 (1-7)

Hawaii won its final two games, but the 2012 season was a significant step back for a program that had won at least six games in each of the past six years. The Warriors' offense struggled under Chow, averaging 21.2 points (down from 31.5 in 2011) and 297.4 yards (down from 404.2) per game.

## 26. JOHN L. SMITH, ARKANSAS

Before: 11-2 (6-2); After: 4-8 (2-6)

Smith's lone season in charge in Fayetteville did not go well. The Hogs won only four games — their fewest since 2005 — and their two SEC wins came over teams (Auburn and Kentucky) that did not win a conference game.

## 27. TIM BECKMAN, ILLINOIS

Before: 7-6 (2-6); After: 2-10 (0-8)

Illinois was arguably the worst AQ conference team in the nation in 2012. The Fighting Illini went winless in the Big Ten, and only one of their eight losses in the league was decided by less than 14 points.

## 28. ELLIS JOHNSON, SOUTHERN MISS

Before: 12-2 (6-2); After: 0-12 (0-8)

Johnson inherited 10 returning starters from a team that went 12-2 yet somehow failed to win a single game. It was a staggering implosion for a program that had not had a losing record since 1993. Johnson was fired after one season.

## 2013 COACHING CAROUSEL

A total of 31 programs changed hands in another busy offseason. Here's how Athlon Sports ranks the new hires.

1. Bobby Petrino Western Kentucky
2. Willie Taggart South Florida
3. Gary Andersen Wisconsin
4. Gus Malzahn Auburn
5. Kliff Kingsbury Texas Tech
6. Trent Miles Georgia State
7. Bret Bielema Arkansas
8. Sonny Dykes California
9. Dave Doeren NC State
10. Mike MacIntyre Colorado
11. Tommy Tuberville Cincinnati
12. Butch Jones Tennessee
13. Darrell Hazell Purdue
14. Mark Stoops Kentucky
15. Bryan Harsin Arkansas State
16. Todd Monken Southern Miss
17. Mark Helfrich Oregon
18. Steve Addazio Boston College
19. Matt Rhule Temple
20. Matt Wells Utah State
21. Brian Polian Nevada
22. Ron Caragher San Jose State
23. Sean Kugler UTEP
24. Rod Carey Northern Illinois
25. Skip Holtz Louisiana Tech
26. Paul Petrino Idaho
27. Scott Shafer Syracuse
28. Paul Haynes Kent State
29. P.J. Fleck Western Michigan
30. Doug Martin New Mexico State
31. Ron Turner FIU

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# Back from Injury

These players missed the entire 2012 season with serious injury. They'll be back in 2013 and will be expected to make a big impact.

## Chris Black, WR, Alabama

Black was expected to make an immediate impact as a true freshman before suffering a shoulder injury in preseason camp. He almost burned his redshirt in the SEC Championship Game, but the Alabama staff opted not to play him.

## Dominique Brown, RB, Louisville

Former quarterback was the Cards' second-leading rusher in 2011 with 533 yards. He was slowed early last season due to a knee injury and opted to redshirt to preserve a year of eligibility.

## Kelby Brown, LB, Duke

A 10-game starter in 2011 and a Freshman All-American in '10, Brown missed all of last season with a knee injury.

## Travis Carrie, CB, Ohio

A second-team All-MAC pick as a junior in 2011, Carrie missed last season with a torn ACL suffered in preseason camp. He was on the Thorpe Award watch list prior to his injury.

## Jordan Canzeri, RB, Iowa

Canzeri was expected to be the Hawkeyes' No. 1 tailback in 2012 before going down with a torn ACL during spring practice. With 17 months of rehab time, he should be 100 percent for the Hawkeyes' 2013 opener.

## Khairi Fortt, LB, California

Fortt, a reserve linebacker at Penn State in his first two seasons, transferred to California in August 2012. He was eligible to play immediately but sat out while recovering from a knee injury.

## Tyshon Goode, WR, Kent State

Syracuse native caught 136 passes for 1,814 yards and 12 touchdowns in his first three seasons. He missed the 2012 season with a hamstring injury.

## Hau'oli Jamora, DE, Washington

When healthy, Jamora has been a key cog on the Huskies' defensive line. He missed the final nine games of the 2011 season due to a torn ACL and then reinjured the same knee during preseason camp the following August.

## Devon Kennard, DE, USC

Kennard started 18 games during his first three years at USC and was expected to start in 2012. However, he was forced to miss the entire season when he was sidelined in preseason camp with a torn muscle in his chest.

## Tre Maddon, RB, USC

Maddon was making the transition from linebacker to tailback in the spring of 2012 when he went down with a torn ACL.



## C.J. Brown QB, Maryland

Brown was slated to be the Terps' starting quarterback last fall before tearing his ACL in mid-August. Now a senior, Brown will battle junior college transfer Ricardo Young for the top job in the fall.

## TOP NEW COORDINATORS

### Dave Aranda

Defensive Coordinator, Wisconsin

Aranda followed new Wisconsin head coach Gary Andersen to Madison. In his only season as the DC at Utah State, the Aggies ranked 14th nationally in total defense (322.1 ypg) and seventh in scoring defense (15.4 ppg). Prior to his one season at USU, Aranda, 36, served as the defensive coordinator at Hawaii for two seasons.

### Don Brown

Defensive Coordinator, Boston College

Brown is a respected defensive coach who has coached in the FBS ranks for only four seasons. After a two-year stop as the defensive coordinator at Maryland (2009-10), he joined Paul Pasqualoni's staff at Connecticut. The Huskies finished 51st ('11) and ninth ('12) nationally in total defense during his two seasons. Brown also has nine years of experience as a head coach in the FCS — Northeastern (27-20 in four seasons) and UMass (43-19 in five seasons).

### Neal Brown

Offensive Coordinator, Kentucky

Brown, a former wide receiver at Kentucky and UMass, returns to his native state after stops as the offensive coordinator at Texas Tech (2010-12) and Troy (2008-09). At 33, he will be the youngest coordinator in the SEC and will inject some enthusiasm — and swagger — into a Kentucky offense that has struggled to move the ball in recent years.

### Jim Chaney

Offensive Coordinator, Arkansas

Tennessee had a lot of problems last season. Moving the football was not one of them. In 2012, the Volunteers — blessed with an outstanding collection of skill players — ranked 19th in the nation in total offense (475.9 ypg) and 23rd in scoring offense (36.2 ppg). Prior to joining Lane Kiffin's staff at Tennessee in 2009, Chaney spent time as an assistant with the St. Louis Rams (2006-08) and as an offensive coordinator at Purdue (1997-2005).

### Bill Cubit

Offensive Coordinator, Illinois

Cubit is fresh off a solid eight-year run as the head coach at Western Michigan. The Broncos went 51-47 overall and 36-27 in the MAC during his time in Kalamazoo. They ranked in the top 40 nationally in total offense in four of his last five years, highlighted by the 2011 season in which WMU averaged 458.5 yards and 35.3 points per game. Previously, Cubit was the offensive coordinator at Stanford, Rutgers, Missouri and Western Michigan.

### D.J. Durkin

Defensive Coordinator, Florida

Durkin was promoted to the defensive coordinator post after Dan Quinn left Florida to become the DC of the Seattle Seahawks. Previously, Durkin had been the Gators' linebackers and special teams coach from 2010-12 and the defensive ends and special teams coach at Stanford under Jim Harbaugh from 2007-09. He is one of the bright young coaches in the game.

Brown: Bruce Schwartzman; Joey; Layne Murdoch; Yurich: AP Photo/Don Juan Moore



**Stefan McClure, CB, California**

McClure suffered a serious knee injury against Arizona State in November 2011. He had played in 11 of the Bears' first 12 games with two starts.

**Jacobi McDaniels, DT, Florida State**

A top-five national recruit in the Class of 2009, McDaniels started 18 games during his first three seasons. He missed the final seven games in 2011 and all of '12 with an ankle injury.

**Andre Monroe, DE, Maryland**

Monroe earned Freshman All-America honors in 2011 after playing in nine games (with four starts) as a defensive tackle. He was slated to start at end last season but was lost for the season with a torn ACL in preseason camp.

**Mario Pender, RB, Florida State**

Pender, a top-100 national recruit in the Class of 2012, missed his true freshman season with a severe groin injury. He is back and will be part of the Seminoles' rotation at running back this fall.

**Ronald Powell, DE/OLB, Florida**

A hybrid end/outside linebacker, Powell appeared in 25 games during his first two years. The former top-five national recruit tore his ACL in the 2012 spring game and sat out the entire season.

**Paul Richardson, WR, Colorado**

Richardson caught 39 passes for 555 yards (including 284 in one game) as a sophomore in 2011. He missed last season after tearing an ACL in a non-contact drill.

**D.T. Shackelford, LB, Ole Miss**

Shackelford has missed the last two seasons due to two ACL surgeries on his right knee. He earned Freshman All-SEC honors in 2009 after playing in 11 games as a reserve linebacker, and he started six of 12 games in 2010.

**Brandon Wilds, RB, South Carolina**

Wilds took on a big role as a true freshman in the South Carolina offense after Marcus Lattimore went down with a season-ending injury in October 2011. He sat out last season partly due to an ankle injury and partly due to the depth at tailback.

**Jarrick Williams, DB, Alabama**

Williams was projected to serve as a backup safety for the Tide in 2012, but he tore his ACL in preseason camp. He will have two years of eligibility remaining.

**Lo Wood, CB, Notre Dame**

Wood saw action in 21 games as a reserve in his first two seasons with the Fighting Irish. He was expected to contend for a starting role in 2012 but went down with an Achilles injury in preseason camp.


**Henry Josey**

RB, Missouri

Through eight weeks of the 2011 season, Josey ranked fourth nationally in rushing (127.1 ypg) and was averaging a gaudy 8.5 yards per rush. He missed the final three-plus games of that season and all of 2012 with a serious knee injury.

**These players missed significant time — more than half the season — with injury in 2012 but are expected back this fall.**

Michael Bennett, WR, Georgia (played in 5 games)

Cameron Blakes, LB, ULM (3 games)

Alfred Blue, RB, LSU (3 games)

Jesse Callier, RB, Washington (1 game)

Chris Casher, DE, Florida State (1 game)

D.J. Coles, WR, Virginia Tech (1 game)

Blake Countess, CB, Michigan (1 game)

Jared Ebert, DT, Oregon (1 game)

Fou Fonoti, OL, Michigan State (2 games)

Jalston Fowler, RB, Alabama (2 games)

Sterling Griffin, WR, South Florida (2 games)

Dee Hart, RB, Alabama (5 games)

Jordan Hicks, LB, Texas (3 games)

Taysom Hill, QB, BYU (6 games)

Waymon James, RB, TCU (2 games)

Jackson Jeffcoat, DE, Texas (6 games)

Jesse Joseph, DE, Connecticut (3 games)

Tevin King, RB, Louisiana Tech (3 games)

Erik Kohler, OL, Washington (2 games)

Tracy Moore, WR, Oklahoma State (4 games)

Ifeadi Odenigbo, DE, Northwestern (1 game)

Brian Randolph, DB, Tennessee (3 games)

Colin Tanigawa, G, Washington (2 games)

DeAndrew White, WR, Alabama (5 games)

**D.J. Eliot**

Defensive Coordinator, Kentucky

Eliot has worked with new Kentucky coach Mark Stoops at Florida State, Miami (Fla.), Houston and Wyoming. Most recently, he coached the defensive ends at Florida State (2010-12) and is a big reason the school has once again started to churn out NFL-caliber defensive linemen. He's regarded as an outstanding recruiter who has already helped the Wildcats land some top-flight defensive talent.

**Tony Franklin**

Offensive Coordinator, California

Franklin is joining his boss, new California coach Sonny Dykes, in Berkeley after a three-year stint at Louisiana Tech. The Bulldogs ranked first nationally in both total offense (577.9 ypg) and scoring offense (51.5 ppg) in 2012. Franklin has been successful at every stop — with the exception of his ill-fated season at Auburn (2008).

**Jeff Jagodzinski**

Offensive Coordinator, Georgia State

Jagodzinski went 20-8 in two seasons (2007-08) with Boston College, but was fired after interviewing for a job as a coordinator in the NFL. He did get hired as the OC of the Tampa Bay Bucs in 2009, but that only lasted one season. Since, he has been a head coach in the UFL and the wide receivers coach at Ave Marie College, an NAIA school in Florida. Now, he is back in the FBS ranks (barely) as the OC at Georgia State under new coach Trent Miles.

**Ellis Johnson**

Defensive Coordinator, Auburn

Johnson's lone season as the head coach at Southern Miss was a disaster — the Golden Eagles went 0-12 — but he is a proven defensive coordinator. He played an integral role in South Carolina's rise in the SEC while on Steve Spurrier's staff from 2008-11, and he also has time as a DC at Mississippi State, Alabama and Clemson. Johnson should make an immediate impact on an Auburn defense that struggled in 2012.

**Jeremy Pruitt**

Defensive Coordinator, Florida State

Pruitt was a valued member of Nick Saban's staff at Alabama the past three seasons as the Crimson Tide's secondary coach. He is regarded as an outstanding recruiter as well. Don't be surprised if Pruitt's stay at Florida State is short; he will be a head coach soon.

**Mike Yurcich**

Offensive Coordinator, Oklahoma State

Yurcich is making the move from the Division II ranks, where he served as the offensive coordinator at Shippensburg (Pa.) University the past two seasons. The Raiders averaged 531.1 yards and 46.8 points per game in 2012. He has big shoes to fill: Oklahoma State has finished in the top four nationally in total offense in each of the last three years.





# Top Transfers

## Drew Allen, QB

Oklahoma to Syracuse

A career backup at Oklahoma — he threw a total of 30 passes in the past three years — Allen will play his final season of eligibility at Syracuse. The 6'5" San Antonio native is the favorite to start for new coach Scott Shafer.

## Brian Bobek, C

Ohio State to Minnesota

A former 4-star recruit, Bobek played in two games as a true freshman at Ohio State in 2011. He is expected to start as a junior for the Golden Gophers.

## Jeremy Cash, S

Ohio State to Duke

Cash played in five games, mostly on special teams, for Ohio State in 2011. He will have a chance to start right away at Duke, where he will have three seasons of eligibility.

## Tra Carson, RB

Oregon to Texas A&M

Carson rushed for 254 yards on 45 carries as a true freshman in 2011, but opted to transfer to seek out more playing time. He will battle holdover Ben Malena and fellow transfer Brandon Williams for carries this fall.

## Gerald Christian, TE

Florida to Louisville

Christian teamed with fellow Florida-to-Louisville transfer Robert Clark at Dwyer High School in West Palm Beach, Fla. Christian caught four passes for 72 yards and one touchdown as a sophomore in 2011. He will have two seasons of eligibility.

## Robert Clark, WR

Florida to Louisville

Clark played sparingly in his two seasons in Gainesville. The 5'9", 182-pound junior should be a key part of the Cardinals' rotation at wide receiver.

## Josh Doctson, WR

Wyoming to TCU

Doctson made an immediate contribution as a true freshman at Wyoming in 2011, catching 35 passes for 393 yards and five touchdowns. The 6'4", 185-pound native of Mansfield, Texas, will team with fellow transfer Ja'Jaun Story to give the Horned Frogs two big targets to complement returning receiver Brandon Carter.

## Max Garcia, OL

Maryland to Florida

Georgia native started all 12 games as a sophomore at Maryland in 2011 and will be in position to earn a starting spot for the Gators in '13.

## Jake Heaps, QB

BYU to Kansas

Heaps, the No. 1 quarterback recruit in the nation in 2010, started 16 games in his two seasons at BYU. He threw for 2,316 yards with 15 touchdowns and nine interceptions as a freshman but struggled as a sophomore. He was benched midway through the season and ended the year with nine TDs and eight INTs.

## Kellen Jones, LB

Oklahoma to Clemson

Jones originally signed with Michigan but left the school in July before his true freshman season and landed at Oklahoma. He played in 12 games for the Sooners in 2011 before transferring to Clemson, where he will be reunited with Brent Venables, his defensive coordinator at OU.

## Deon Long, WR

New Mexico to Maryland

(via junior college)

Long, who originally signed with West Virginia in 2009, was a first-team NJCAA All-American after catching 100 passes for 1,625 yards and 25 touchdowns at Iowa Western Community College in 2012. As a redshirt freshman at New Mexico in 2011, he caught 47 passes for a team-high 809 yards while playing for current Maryland offensive coordinator Mike Locksley.

## Jeff Luc, LB

Florida State to Cincinnati

A former 4-star prospect from Port St. Lucie, Fla., Luc played in 19 games and recorded 23 tackles in his two seasons with the Seminoles. He will have two seasons of eligibility remaining at Cincinnati.



## Daniel Jenkins, RB

Arizona to Washington State

Jenkins rushed for 293 yards and two touchdowns while backing up Ka'Deem Carey, the nation's leading rusher, last season. He graduated from Arizona in December and will be eligible immediately at Washington State, where he should play a major role for an offense that ranked last in the nation in rushing in 2012.

## Aaron Lynch, DE

Notre Dame to South Florida

A top-20 national recruit in the class of 2011, Lynch started six games for Notre Dame as a true freshman, recording 5.5 sacks and 14 quarterback hurries. He is expected to play a major role for the Bulls in 2013.



Jenkins: Peter Brouillet; Lynch: Bruce Schwartzman; Williams: Tim Unphrey; Showers: Chris Covatta



**Justin McCay, WR**  
Oklahoma to Kansas

A former 5-star recruit (by Scout) from Kansas City, McCay played in only three games — and did not catch a pass — during his two years with the Sooners. He will have two years of eligibility at KU.

**Tyler Moore, OL**  
Nebraska to Florida  
(via junior college)

The son of a former Nebraska tight end, Moore started four games at right tackle for the Cornhuskers as a true freshman in 2011. The Clearwater, Fla., native spent the fall of 2012 at St. Petersburg (Fla.) Community College, which doesn't have a football team. He will be a sophomore this season.

**Matt Patchan, OL**  
Florida to Boston College

Patchan played in 27 games and started eight games (seven on offense and one on defense) during his injury-plagued four years at Florida. He graduated in December and opted to play his final season at Boston College, where he will reunite with Steve Adazio, his former position coach at Florida.

**Josh Quezada, RB**  
BYU to Fresno State

Quezada rushed for 803 yards and six touchdowns in two seasons at BYU, with a high of 107 yards in a 2010 win over New Mexico. The Southern California native will have an opportunity to replace three-time 1,000-yard rusher Robbie Rouse as the feature back at Fresno State.

**Tom Savage, QB**  
Arizona to Pittsburgh

Savage, who has not played a down since the 2010 season, will have one year of eligibility at Pittsburgh. He began his career at Rutgers (where he earned Freshman All-America honors in '09), made a one-year stop at Arizona (in 2011), and then landed at Pittsburgh. After sitting out in 2012, he is expected to be the starter for second-year Panthers coach Paul Chryst.

**Jesse Scroggins, QB**  
USC to Arizona (via junior college)

A former top-100 national recruit, Scroggins lasted two years at USC. He spent the 2012 season at El Camino (Calif.) College, where he posted underwhelming numbers. In eight games, he only completed 45.9 percent of his passes for 1,148 yards and eight touchdowns.

**Graham Stewart, LB**  
Florida to UConn

Stewart, a Connecticut native, returned home after one season at Florida. He played in 12 games for the Gators on special teams as a true freshman in 2011 and scored a touchdown on a blocked punt in the Gator Bowl against Ohio State.

**JaJuan Story, WR**  
Florida to TCU

A top-50 national recruit in the Class of 2011, Story has yet to play in a game during his collegiate career. After redshirting at Florida in 2011, he sat out last fall after transferring to TCU.

**Pete Thomas, QB**  
Colorado State to NC State

Thomas was a two-year starter at Colorado State. As a true freshman in 2010, he threw for 2,662 yards with 11 touchdowns and 13 interceptions. In '11, he threw for 1,607 yards, seven TDs and eight INTs in an injury-shortened season.

**Darius White, WR**  
Texas to Missouri

A 2009 prep All-American, White caught six passes for 71 yards in two seasons at Texas. He will have two years of eligibility at Missouri.

**D.J. Yendrey, DT**  
TCU to Texas State

Yendrey was one of several key TCU players kicked off the team in February 2012 following a drug bust on campus. He has landed at Texas State, where he will have one season of eligibility.

**Ricardo Young, QB**  
New Mexico to Maryland  
(via junior college)

The well-traveled Young, the 2010 Washington, D.C., Player of the Year, has spent time at Virginia Tech, New Mexico (under current Maryland offensive coordinator Mike Locksley) and Iowa Western Community College. There are a host of candidates for the starting job in the fall, but Young was the only healthy quarterback in the spring.

**Scotty Young, QB**  
Texas Tech to Louisiana Tech

A top-250 national recruit in the Class of 2010, Young left Texas Tech after two seasons without taking a snap. He is the favorite to start at Louisiana Tech for new coach Skip Holtz.



**Brandon Williams, RB**  
Oklahoma to Texas A&M

Williams, one of the gems of the Sooners' 2011 recruiting class, only played one season at Oklahoma, where he rushed for 219 yards on 46 carries. He transferred to A&M to be closer to his home in Brookshire, Texas. The Aggies are expecting a major contribution from the former 5-star recruit.

**Jameill Showers, QB**

Texas A&M to UTEP  
Showers emerged from last spring No. 1 on the Aggies depth chart but got beaten out by a guy named Johnny Manziel. Showers has already graduated from A&M, so he will be able to play immediately at UTEP, where he will have two years of eligibility.







WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ATHLON SPORTS'

# TOP 40 RECRUITS OF 2008

by Braden Gall

## 2. Julio Jones, WR, Alabama Foley (Ala.) High

One of the most coveted prospects in recent memory, Jones signed with Alabama over Florida, Oklahoma and Florida State. He caught a touchdown in four of his first five college games, quickly showing a truly rare blend of size and speed. The wideout helped lead Bama back to a national title as a sophomore and a 10-3 record as a junior. Jones finished second in school history in receptions (179) and yards (2,653) and fourth in touchdowns (15) despite playing just three years in a run-first offense. The Atlanta Falcons traded most of their draft to move up and select the star wideout with the sixth overall pick in 2011.

## 3. Darrell Scott, RB, Colorado Ventura (Calif.) St. Bonaventure

Born in Tallahassee, Fla., Scott grew up in Texas and California, where he developed into one of the best running back prospects in the nation. He rushed for nearly 6,000 yards and 79 touchdowns in his final two prep seasons at two different California high schools. He picked Colorado over Texas, Florida and LSU. After two undistinguished seasons in Boulder, he transferred to South Florida. He posted career highs in 2011 for the Bulls, rushing for 814 yards and five touchdowns. After three unremarkable seasons at two schools, Scott left early for the NFL and went undrafted in 2012.

## 4. Da'Quan Bowers, DE, Clemson Bamberg (S.C.) Bamberg-Ehrhardt

A freak athlete, Bowers excelled at defensive end, running back and kick returner his final season in high school. At Clemson, he contributed immediately as a freshman and continued to develop as a sophomore, posting 18.5 tackles for a loss in his first two sea-

## 1. Terrelle Pryor, QB, Ohio State Jeannette (Pa.) High

A two-sport state champion, Pryor took to the limelight, extending his decision to sign well beyond National Signing Day. Six weeks later, the star quarterback inked with Ohio State over Oregon, Penn State and Michigan. By the fourth game of his career, Pryor was the starting quarterback, earning Big Ten Freshman of the Year honors en route to the first of three straight Big Ten championships. However, following his junior season, his career in Columbus came to an end when an NCAA investigation discovered improper benefits and activities. He was the centerpiece of the scandal that led to the firing of coach Jim Tressel and the suspension of other key players. On June 7, 2011, Pryor withdrew from Ohio State with a 31-4 record as the starter. He was taken by the Oakland Raiders in the third round of the 2011 Supplemental Draft.

sons. As a junior, he led the nation in tackles for a loss (26.0) and sacks (15.5), earning consensus All-America honors. He took home the Nagurski, Ted Hendricks and ACC Defensive Player of the Year awards and departed early for the NFL. Major knee issues caused his NFL stock to drop, resulting in Tampa Bay selecting Bowers with the 51st overall pick in the 2011 Draft.

## 5. Will Hill, S, Florida West Orange (N.J.) St. Peter's

Hill did everything for St. Peter's, playing quarterback, running back, wide receiver and defensive back. He picked Florida and went on to become an SEC All-Freshman in 2008 after recording 48 tackles and two INTs en route to the BCS National Championship. Hill never developed into a star, however, and finished with 144 career tackles and four career picks. He declared early for the NFL but went undrafted. In May 2012, he signed with the New York Giants and played in 12 games as a rookie last season.

Pryor: Ric Vogel; Green: Brad Schloss



## 6. A.J. Green, WR, Georgia, Summerville (S.C.) High

Forever linked with Julio Jones, Green signed with Georgia after a high-profile and extremely productive high school career. Like Jones, Green brought rare size, length, big-play ability and speed to the college game the second he stepped onto campus. And like Jones, he caught a touchdown in his first college game. He never posted a 1,000-yard season, but Green led the SEC in receiving yards (963) and touchdowns (eight) as a freshman. He finished his career with 166 receptions, 2,619 yards and 23 scores before leaving early for the NFL. He was the fourth overall pick in the 2011 NFL Draft by the Cincinnati Bengals and has had one of the best statistical starts of any wide receiver in NFL history.



the final four games. His elite athletic ability was obvious, not only on defense but also on special teams. The accolades piled up as Peterson won the Thorpe and Bednarik awards as the nation's top defensive back and top defensive player. He was a consensus

All-American and SEC Defensive Player of the Year in 2010 and also racked up 1,350 yards and two touchdowns as a return man. He left LSU early and was the fifth overall selection in the 2011 NFL Draft by the Arizona Cardinals.

## 10. R.J. Washington, DE, Oklahoma Fort Worth (Texas) Keller Fossil Ridge

Washington never lived up to the hype of being ranked the No. 2 defensive end in the nation. He played in 40 career games but started just six in his career, all during his senior season in 2012. His tenure in Norman ended with 57 total tackles, 8.5 tackles for a loss, 7.0 sacks and one forced fumble.

## 11. Marcus Forston, DT, Miami Miami (Fla.) Northwestern

The star prep nose tackle was the most high-profile member of the 2007 Miami Northwestern state championship team that sent seven prospects to Miami and Lavonte David (eventually) to Nebraska. Forston played in 12 games as a freshman and earned Freshman All-America honors. After a promising first season, Forston missed all but three games as a sophomore due to injury. Returning in 2010, the big nose guard started 12 games and posted 37 tackles with 12 tackles for a loss. However, a knee injury ended his 2011 sea-

son after just three games. His collegiate career ended when he declared early for the NFL Draft. He went unselected, but made the New England Patriots practice squad in 2012.

## 12. Michael Brewster, OL Ohio State Orlando (Fla.) Edgewater

The 6'5", 305-pound pivot is one of the greatest centers to play at Ohio State. He entered the starting lineup in the fourth game of his college career as a freshman and never let go. His 49 consecutive starts comprised the second-longest streak in school history. He earned Freshman All-America honors in 2008 and was a Rimington Trophy finalist in 2010. The star center played in 51 games and was a part of three Big Ten championships. He went undrafted in 2012 but started seven games for the Jaguars as a rookie.

## 13. Michael Floyd, WR, Notre Dame St. Paul (Minn.) Cretin-Derham Hall

Hailing from one of the most talent-rich high schools in the Midwest, Floyd burst onto the scene at Notre Dame as a freshman by playing in 11 games and setting school freshman records for receptions (48), yards (719) and touchdowns (7). He dealt with minor injuries and off-the-field issues throughout his career in South Bend, but he rewrote the Irish receiving record book. He set school marks for receptions (271), yards (3,689), touchdowns (37) and 100-yard efforts (16) to go with the single-season record for catches (100) in 2011. He was the 13th overall pick in the 2012 draft by the Arizona Cardinals.

## 14. Nigel Bradham, LB, Florida State Crawfordville (Fla.) Wakulla

Bradham never became the superstar the experts imagined, but he was a dependable three-year starter for the Seminoles. He became the first Noles defender to lead the team in tackles for three consecutive years since Marvin Jones did it in the early '90s. His career culminated by being named All-ACC honorable mention in 2011. Bradham was selected 105th overall in the fourth round of the 2012 NFL Draft by the Buffalo Bills. He started 11 games and posted 57 tackles as a rookie last season.

## 15. Blake Ayles, TE, USC Orange (Calif.) Lutheran

Ayles played for three seasons at USC, catching just 14 passes for 182 yards and one touchdown. He transferred to Miami and was set to contribute in 2011 before a preseason concussion ended his college career. He never played another down and went undrafted in the 2012 NFL Draft.

## 7. Arthur Brown, LB, Miami Wichita (Kan.) East

After a long and high-profile recruitment, Brown signed with Miami over powerhouses like LSU and Florida. After struggling his first two seasons in Coral Gables, he transferred back home to Kansas State. Once back in the Sunflower State, Brown flourished, earning Big 12 Newcomer of the Year in 2011 after recording 101 tackles. He returned for his senior season and helped lead the Wildcats to a Big 12 title and earned Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year honors after another 100-tackle season. The Cats went 21-5 during his tenure.

## 8. Jermie Calhoun, RB, Oklahoma Van (Texas) High

Garnering unwarranted comparisons to Adrian Peterson, the Lone Star State runner went North to Oklahoma and never realized his potential. He rushed for just 242 yards and one touchdown before transferring to Angelo (Texas) State in 2011. He rushed for 341 yards and two touchdowns in 2012 for the Rams.

## 9. Patrick Johnson, CB, LSU Pompano Beach (Fla.) Ely

The highly coveted prospect changed his name from Johnson to Peterson in August 2008 prior to playing a down for LSU. He played in all 13 games as a freshman, starting



**16. Jonathan Baldwin, WR, Pittsburgh Aliquippa (Pa.) High**

Another big-bodied receiver in the '08 receiver class, Baldwin made a quick impact. As a sophomore, he had 57 receptions for 1,111 yards as the school's first 1,000-yard receiver since 2004. He was first-team All-Big East and received some All-America recognition. He finished his three-year career with 128 catches, 2,337 yards and 16 touchdowns before leaving early for the NFL Draft. He was a first-round pick by the Chiefs in 2011 but has yet to deliver in the professional ranks.

**17. DeAndre Brown, WR Southern Miss Ocean Springs (Miss.) High**

Fans in Hattiesburg wonder what could have been with Brown. He dominated Conference USA as a freshman, setting a school record with 67 receptions. Yet, his first season ended when he suffered a gruesome broken leg in the bowl game. From there, Brown was never the same player. He is second in Southern Miss history with 24 TD catches, third with 2,207 yards and fifth with 134 catches. He went undrafted, and his NFL career consists of a 15-day stint with the Eagles.

**18. Matt Kalil, OL, USC Corona (Calif.) Servite**

Kalil was the fourth overall pick in the 2012 NFL Draft, started all 16 games in front of Adrian Peterson and earned a Pro Bowl invite as a Minnesota Vikings rookie. With a father, Frank, and brother, Ryan, excelling as not only college stars but also NFL performers, the youngest Kalil was well prepared for life at USC. He started for two full seasons protecting Matt Barkley's blind side without allowing a sack in 2011.

**19. Richard Samuel, RB, Georgia Cartersville (Ga.) Cass**

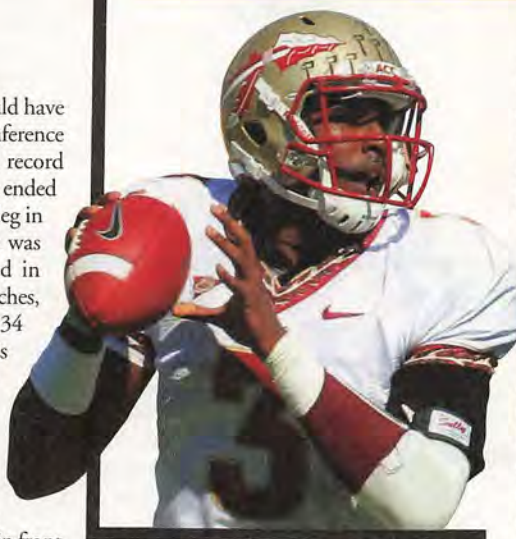
Samuel never settled into one position while in Athens during his injury-plagued career. He played running back in his first two seasons, rushing for 528 yards before redshirting in 2010 to facilitate a move to linebacker. However, he moved back to running back for his final two seasons, rushing for just 305 yards in 2011 and '12.

**20. Dayne Crist, QB, Notre Dame Sherman Oaks (Calif.) Notre Dame**

Injuries played a role in Crist being labeled a bust, but he had his chances and failed to come close to his lofty recruiting status. He played in just 17 games for Notre Dame in three years (2,327 yards, 16 TDs, eight INTs) before transferring to Kansas to reunite with Charlie Weis. As a Jayhawk, he had yet an-

**21. EJ Manuel, QB, Florida State Virginia Beach (Va.) Bayside**

On one hand, Manuel dealt with injuries and inconsistency throughout his career and was never a first-team All-ACC quarterback. On the other, he is third all-time at Florida State with 25 wins in 31 starts; he led the Noles back to an ACC championship; he completed a school-record 66.9-percent of his passes; and he became the second quarterback in NCAA history to win four consecutive bowl games. He finished third all-time in school history for passing yards (7,736), third in total offense (8,563), fourth in completions (600) and seventh in TDs passes (47). Manuel was selected by Buffalo with the No. 16 pick in the 2013 NFL Draft.



nence in 2010. He was named to the SEC All-Freshman team by the coaches in 2008 and played in 13 games in 2009 before entering the starting lineup as a junior. He started 23 games over his final two years, posting 56 tackles and 7.5 tackles for a loss. Tyson was drafted by the Ravens in the seventh round of the 2012 draft, playing in 10 games for the Super Bowl champs.

**25. Mike Adams, OL, Ohio State Dublin (Ohio) Coffman**

Adams was an integral part of the highly touted 2008 Ohio State offensive line class. Playing for three Big Ten title teams, he started five games his first two seasons and earned all-conference honors in his final two seasons. Like teammate Terrelle Pryor, Adams was named in the tattoo scandal that brought NCAA sanctions to Ohio State. The Steelers made him a second-round pick in the 2012 NFL Draft.

**26. Kyle Rudolph, TE, Notre Dame Cincinnati (Ohio) Elder**

Rudolph became the first Notre Dame tight end to start every game of his freshman season before injuries limited his sophomore and junior seasons. His final three-year stat line of 90 receptions, 1,032 yards and eight touchdowns seems underwhelming, but he showed enough to be a second-round draft pick of the Vikings after three seasons. He has established himself as one of the most dynamic players at his position in the NFL.

**27. Tyron Smith, OL, USC Moreno Valley (Calif.) Rancho Verde**

Smith and Matt Kalil gave USC two first-round picks in one offensive line class. Smith appeared in 10 games as a freshman and started 12 as a sophomore, earning All-Pac-10 honorable mention in the process. As a starting right tackle in 2010, Smith earned the Morris Trophy as the league's top offensive lineman before leaving early for the NFL. He was the ninth overall pick in the 2011 draft by the Cowboys, and he has started 31 games since.

other shot at being the star but managed to throw just four touchdowns with nine interceptions in 2012.

**22. B.J. Scott, ATH, Alabama Prichard (Ala.) Vigor**

Scott projected as an "athlete" because of his potential at both defensive back and wide receiver. It turns out that he wasn't good enough at either to stick at Alabama. He transferred to South Alabama and finished third on the team with 84 tackles in 2012.

**23. Tyler Love, OL, Alabama Mountain Brook (Ala.) High**

Nick Saban rarely misses on 5-star talent, but Love will end his Tide career as an afterthought on some of the most talented teams in program history. He played a total of 14 games in his four-year career and decided to step away from football after the 2011 season with one year of eligibility remaining.

**24. DeAngelo Tyson, DT, Georgia Statesboro (Ga.) High**

The big in-state lineman was never a star in Athens but was a consistent, dependable member of the defense for four years and helped return the Bulldogs defense to promi-



**28. T.J. Bryant, DB, USC**  
**Tallahassee (Fla.) Lincoln**

The cross-country trip from Florida to Los Angeles didn't work as Bryant had planned. After a suspension in his final year at USC, Bryant transferred to Troy, where he played 10 games and picked up 22 tackles in 2012.

**29. Stephen Good, OL, Oklahoma**  
**Paris (Texas) High**

Expectations were high for Good after he was a part-time starter as a sophomore, but he never locked down a starting spot as an upperclassman. He was arrested in a nightclub altercation near the end of his college career and went undrafted in 2012.

**30. Aldarius Johnson, WR, Miami**  
**Miami (Fla.) Northwestern**

The second-highest rated Hurricanes recruit from Miami Northwestern, Johnson made a quick impact with the Canes, leading the team with 31 receptions, 332 yards and three touchdowns as a freshman. His numbers dropped from there, and he was eventually suspended as a senior for his connection to the Nevin Shapiro scandal.

**31. Matt Patchan, OL, Florida**  
**Tampa (Fla.) Armwood**

After a dramatic recruitment, Patchan had an injury-plagued career at Florida. He started his career as a defensive lineman and missed most of 2009 and all of 2010 with injuries. He returned as an offensive tackle in 2011 and missed all of 2012 due to injury. Patchan transferred to Boston College, where he's expected to start in 2013.

**32. Blaine Gabbert, QB, Missouri**  
**Ballwin (Mo.) Parkway West**

A one-time Nebraska commit, Gabbert ended up as a backup to Chase Daniel at Missouri as a freshman. Becoming the starter in 2009, he threw for 6,779 yards and 40 touchdowns over the next two seasons while leading Missouri to an 18-8 record. His marquee win over Oklahoma in 2010 was the first for the Tigers over OU since 1998 and just the second since 1983. He was drafted by the Jacksonville Jaguars with the 10th overall pick in 2011 and set a franchise rookie record with 14 starts.

**33. Etienne Sabino, LB, Ohio State**  
**North Miami Beach (Fla.) Dr. Krop**

It took a long time for Sabino to earn his starting spot, but as a senior in 2012 he was named a team co-captain and starting linebacker. Sabino finished with 119 tackles, 10.5 tackles for a loss and 4.5 sacks. He was a member of two Big Ten championship teams and was a leader on the undefeated 2012 squad.

**34. D.J. Shoemate, WR, USC**  
**Corona (Calif.) Servite**

A fullback and wide receiver at USC, Shoemate played in 21 games but never had a defined role. Shoemate eventually transferred to UConn, where he played in 15 games in two years before shoulder injuries ended his career.

**35. Lucas Nix, OL, Pittsburgh**  
**Jefferson Hills (Pa.) Thomas Jefferson**

The massive offensive lineman started as a sophomore, paving the way for Dion Lewis' 1,799-yard season in 2009. Nix started 12 games as a junior and played eight games as a senior before going undrafted in the 2012 NFL Draft. However, Nix earned a spot on the Oakland Raiders roster and played in one game as a rookie last season.

**36. Ethan Johnson, DL, Notre Dame**  
**Portland (Ore.) Lincoln**

The cross-country recruit was never a star in South Bend but played a lot of football. He played in every game during his first three seasons with the Irish, starting 24 of 25 games in 2009-10. Johnson finished his Notre Dame career with 97 total tackles, 18.5 tackles for a loss, 13.5 sacks and one blocked kick. He went undrafted in 2012 but landed on the practice squad with the Kansas City Chiefs.

**37. Baker Steinkuhler, OL, Nebraska**  
**Lincoln (Neb.) Southwest**

Steinkuhler came to Lincoln with high expectations as the son of legendary Nebraska Hall of Famer Dean Steinkuhler. After a redshirt season in 2008, the younger Steinkuhler made a name for himself in a big way. He finished his career with 150 total tackles, 17 tackles for a loss and eight sacks to go with three division titles. He was a Big 12 All-Freshman selection in 2009 and second-team All-Big Ten in 2012.

**38. Ryan Williams, RB,**  
**Virginia Tech, Manassas (Va.)**  
**Stonewall Jackson**

An unexpected starter as a redshirt freshman, Williams replaced the injured Darren Evans for a record-breaking season. Williams set a single-season school and ACC freshman record with 1,655 yards in addition to an ACC-record 22 touchdowns. He capped his first season as the ACC's Rookie of the Year, a first-team All-ACC selection and the Chick-fil-A Bowl MVP. After an injury-shortened sophomore season, Williams left school early and was drafted in the second round by the Arizona Cardinals with the 38th overall pick. The explosive tailback has missed 27 of his first 32 professional games due to injury.

**39. DeVier Posey, WR, Ohio State**  
**Cincinnati (Ohio) LaSalle**

A high-profile member of the heralded '08 Buckeyes signing class, Posey played in all 12 games as a freshman before posting big numbers as a sophomore (60 receptions, 828 yards, eight TDs) and junior (53 receptions, 848 yards, seven TDs) alongside his star quarterback, Terrelle Pryor. Yet, much like Pryor, Adams and Dan Herron, Posey was implicated in the tattoo scandal that resulted in Jim Tressel's ouster in Columbus. He played three games as a senior and was drafted in the third round by the Houston Texans in the 2012 NFL Draft.

**40. Dan Buckner, WR, Texas**  
**Allen (Texas) High**

A dominant physical specimen at 6'4" and 220 pounds, Buckner showed loads of promise, playing in all 12 games as a true freshman. He then started eight games as a sophomore, catching 45 passes for 442 yards and four touchdowns on an undefeated regular-season Big 12 title team that lost to Alabama in the BCS Championship Game. Following an arrest in College Station, Buckner transferred to Arizona, where he sat out the 2010 season. In two seasons in the desert, Buckner caught 103 passes for 1,379 yards and seven scores.





## by David Fox



**J**alen Ramsey is off the grid. Or at least as much as an incoming college freshman can be in 2013.

Nearly seven months before the Brentwood (Tenn.) Academy cornerback signed with Florida State, Ramsey decided he had had enough input on the recruiting process from the outside world, including the faceless and anonymous masses.

"I am Jalen Lattrell Ramsey and college is MY choice! MY choice only! No one elses!" Ramsey tweeted on June 28, 2012. "It's ALL on me! Y'all will hear from ME..."

That was less than a month before Ramsey announced a commitment to USC. And by the time he changed his mind to sign with Florida State, the coveted prospect had retired his @jr7\_eagles Twitter handle.

For Ramsey, that may have been for the best as he navigated the final months of the recruiting process. Before he shut down, his mentions column was filled with encouragement, pleas to attend certain schools, but also posts knocking some of the schools he considered.

"Some things were said that were just out of line," Ramsey says. "Rumors started. Grown men talking about 17- and 18-year-old kids, it's unneeded. It was just, 'I'm done with that.'"

That's one extreme of the way social media has changed recruiting in college sports. Ramsey's teammate, quarterback Max Staver, had a different experience.

Granted, Staver was not as high-profile a recruit. And he picked Florida in June before his senior year and never wavered. After he committed to the Gators, dozens of fans welcomed him to the roster. As he exchanged tweets and direct messages with other Gator commitments, Florida coaches asked him to be an ambassador for the program, talking to recruits in ways they couldn't.

"After I committed I was talking to a bunch of guys, I was probably texting guys 10 times a day and telling them to check out Florida," Staver says. "I wasn't trying to get in their face or be rude about it. But there were a lot of questions. Being a quarterback in the recruiting class, they want me to reach out."

Few facets of the recruiting process have remained untouched by social media in the last four years. Coaches use Twitter and Facebook to communicate with recruits and evaluate prospects both on and off the field. Recruits use social media to get to know their future coaches and teammates and, at times, bask in the adoration of fans. Fans use it to follow the process while explaining all the reasons their school would be the right choice (and, sometimes, why other schools would be the wrong choice).

Bottom line: It's inescapable.

"It's an unstoppable force in recruiting," Miami recruiting coordinator Brennan Carroll says. "You don't really have a choice. If you're not doing it, you're probably wrong. That's the way we look at it here."

The initial catalyst for the social media revolution in recruiting wasn't Twitter or Facebook or even social media relic MySpace. It started with texting.

When Carroll coached at USC with his fa-

ther Pete Carroll, Trojans coaches visited high schools to meet with recruits only to find that their targets already had relationships established with other programs. The reason was text messaging. Prospects had been texting with USC's recruiting rivals months before the Trojans could catch up.

USC was behind on that trend, but by 2008 that wouldn't matter anyway when the NCAA banned text messaging with recruits. The lesson, though, was that the recruiting through email, phone calls, official visits and coach in-home visits weren't enough anymore.

According to NCAA interpretations, Twitter direct messages and Facebook private messages are legislated the same way as emails, which is to say they are an unlimited form of communication. In practice, a Twitter or Facebook private message may as well be a text.

And from the coaches' perspective, this is

"Some things were said that were just out of line. Rumors started. Grown men talking about 17- and 18-year-old kids, it's unneeded. It was just, 'I'm done with that.'"

— Jalen Ramsey

how recruits communicate with their friends anyway.

"You want to meet the prospects where they're at," says Vanderbilt offensive line coach Herb Hand, one of the most enthusiastic coaching voices on Twitter. "You can sit here and say, 'I'm going to communicate with this guy in my way,' and not get anywhere. You have to meet them where they are. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram are how kids communicate. That's the world we live in now."

That new world is a fish bowl.





James Coley was one of the first college coaches to embrace Twitter and one of the first to turn it into a recruiting tool.

While the tight ends coach at Florida State, Coley started a Twitter account to break the stereotype that the Seminoles' coaching staff under Bobby Bowden was old-school and stuffy.

Coley's energetic bursts, frequently in all caps with plenty of exclamation points, trended throughout the Seminoles' fan base on Twitter. When Coley started hearing one of his top phrases — "FEAR THE SPEAR" — from high school prospects, a light bulb went off.

Recruits followed him, and then fans on Twitter used Coley's list of followers to find recruits.

"I'd tell kids to follow me on Twitter and pretty soon you're going to have a thousand followers," says Coley, now the offensive coordinator at Miami.

A few years later, and it's almost a given that recruits will be visible on Twitter. Reporters often mention recruits' Twitter handles in updates. Prospects tweet about the process. One network of team recruiting sites lists the Twitter handles of prospects making official visits in its weekend recruiting previews.

As a result, fans are more clued into the recruiting process than ever before.

Shane Morris, a quarterback from Warren (Mich.) De La Salle, committed to Michigan in May 2011. One of the top quarterback recruits in the country, Morris also tweets like one of the biggest Michigan fans in the country. Most of his nearly 25,000 followers responded to the positivity in kind.

"When you have fans like Michigan, a fan base that shows them love, kids like that," Morris says.

That's the experience of a top recruit who spent his entire senior season committed to the same school.

Fans of schools who watch recruits change their minds through the process vent their frustrations on Twitter, often directly to the recruit.

Auburn (Ala.) linebacker Reuben Foster, a top-10 player nationally, first committed to Alabama, but changed his mind the summer before his senior season. He switched to hometown Auburn in a move that he made more official by getting a tattoo of the Tigers' logo inside his right forearm.

There was no need to imagine the reaction when Foster switched back to Alabama shortly before Signing Day.

It was laid bare on Twitter.

Alabama fans welcomed him with open arms. Some Auburn fans wished him well at his new school. Others weren't quite so char-

itable. Among the reactions mentioning Foster that day that we can print:

@reubenfoster\_FG smh your loss

@reubenfoster\_FG no playing time for 2 years.. Have fun riding the bench boy. #sorrynotsorry

@reubenfoster\_FG so how much did saban pay you? What a sell-out.. ditching your own hometown #traitor

@reubenfoster\_FG just got unfollowed. [Auburn defensive end signee Carl Lawson] is 100% more than man and player than u will ever be! U fit in well with the turds #WDE

As much as navigating social media is an issue for recruits and coaches, the revelations can be a headache for administrators.

In a trend that's become all too common, Laquon Treadwell, one of the nation's top wide receiver prospects, posted a picture to Instagram of him holding \$100 bills days before signing day. The Ole Miss commitment out of Crete (Ill.) Crete-Monee also posted a picture to Twitter of two women kissing him on the cheek with the caption "Oxford is the best place I've ever been." Treadwell deleted the photo of cash, but not before it made the rounds through fans and media. He later told *The Chicago Tribune* he was goofing around and he received no money from Ole Miss to sign with the Rebels.

And it's not just the recruits who lack a filter on social media. Two Florida International players tweeted in January about taking a recruit to a strip club. If any of FIU's recruiting budget was used to take a recruit to a strip club, then it's an NCAA violation. Even if

that was not the case, the episode isn't great publicity.

NCAA bylaws also prohibit representatives of the program's athletic interests from contacting recruits. This primarily means boosters, but more broadly the definition could include many fans.

Anonymity and the sheer volume of social media messages directed to recruits make any sort of action on offenders near impossible. Instead, many athletic departments actively try to discourage such contact.

Notre Dame put out a YouTube video (below) with athletic personnel saying, "Leave the Recruiting to Us." Texas A&M's Brad Barnes is one of many compliance directors active and available on Twitter to clear up compliance issues for fans. Some fans respond when he asks them to steer clear of the process on social media. For those who don't heed Barnes' advice, there's not much Texas A&M — or any school — can do to stop it.

"From a practical standpoint, you don't see a great deal of reporting on that unless it's a situation where they say, 'We know who this individual is, this was brought to our attention, they are who they say they are, or we found out who they are and we know who they are,'" Barnes says. "I don't know of a lot of institutions that go out actively looking for it."

Of course, no one tells recruits they have to be on Twitter or Facebook, sharing details of their recruitment. Just don't expect that level of openness to change.

"It's changed the mindset of a lot of kids compared to the old days, because if a kid got offers, he'd keep it to himself," Vanderbilt wide receivers coach and offensive recruiting coordinator Josh Gattis says. "Now kids get offers and tweet about it. They're trying to get attention to themselves."

Vanderbilt under James Franklin has been among the top staffs in the country in using social media to interact with fans, players and recruits.





Gattis and his receivers use the hashtag #FlyBoyz to keep up with each other. Hand, on Twitter since he was at Tulsa in 2009, is a favorite follow for media members with his sense of humor. As for recruits, Hand says he'll send 10-15 messages to recruits each day with photos from practice or the athletic facility. Franklin tweets about building the Commodores program with his hashtag #VanderBUILD.

But for all its efforts, Vanderbilt isn't Alabama, LSU, Florida or Georgia.

The Commodores still need to unearth prospects other teams miss to stay competitive in the SEC. Social media makes that much more difficult. Recruits tweet about the recruiting process, who's calling, who's been by to see them. Besides highlight videos being readily available on sites that cover recruiting, prospects can upload highlight videos to YouTube and Hudl, a video service tailored exclusively to coaches.

"It's very hard to keep a gem a gem," Gattis says. "These days finding a diamond in the rough is really tough because sooner or later someone is going to be exposed to that player."

Coaches also have a way to find out which recruits might not be worth the risk.

Many coaches admit they've stopped recruiting a prospect because of concerns raised by their social media accounts, whether it's language, compromising photos, comments demeaning to women or simply tweeting at late hours on weeknights.

Hand says he's talked to some recruits about changing their tones on Twitter. If they don't, that's another strike — they're uncoachable.

Vanderbilt isn't alone. After Signing Day, Tennessee coach Butch Jones remarked that the Vols had withheld scholarships because of concerns raised by Twitter and Facebook.

But at the same time, social media enabled the first-year coach in Knoxville to build momentum in his first recruiting cycle. When he was hired at Tennessee, Jones' Twitter account was briefly suspended after a deluge of Volunteers fan followed the former Cincinnati coach.

"When we were coming in here, in a short period of time we had to develop those relationships," Jones says. "At the end of the day, recruiting is all about relationships. That was a way to expedite getting to know these players."

For example, Jones, who requires all his assistants to be on Twitter, used social media to en-

dear himself to fans, but also to become quickly acclimated with recruits.

Late in the process, the Volunteers badly wanted to sign Joshua Dobbs, a quarterback out of Alpharetta, Ga. Through Twitter and Facebook, Jones and his staff learned of his favorite foods, the importance of playing baseball, his favorite classes and his focus on engineering programs. Guess what became the focus of his ultimately successful recruitment to Tennessee?

"You're always looking for that information, what people are important to him, what are his hot buttons," Jones says.

Whether it's a red flag that tells coaches to stay away or a nugget that shows that a prospect will be a good student and teammate, recruiters will find it if it's on their Twitter or Facebook accounts.

"It's information they're giving us whether they know it or not," Brennan Carroll says. "We won't miss a thing. ... These kids are just flat-out telling you."

As much as social media has sped up the recruiting process, it's also sped up the bonding process.

Meeting a college roommate on the first day of class is long gone. So is exchanging emails or cell phone calls. Chemistry can be built before a freshman class steps on campus. Prospects meet at camps, all-star games or visits, and from there they exchange phone numbers and find each other on

"Our recruiting class is probably the closest class in the nation," Morris says. "Most of us have iPhones and we're in group chats and keep up with each other. When we take visits we make sure everyone's taking them together."

— Shane Morris

Twitter and Facebook.

Before he takes a snap at Michigan, Morris is already showing the characteristics of leading the Wolverines in the huddle. He's organized unofficial visits to Michigan and kept in touch with his future teammates long before practice starts.

"Our recruiting class is probably the closest class in the nation," Morris says. "Most of us have iPhones and we're in group chats and keep up with each other. When we take visits we make sure everyone's taking them together."

But not every prospect is spending his days on Twitter talking to coaches and teammates, even though signing day has come and gone.

Ramsey, the Florida State-bound cornerback, stuck by his self-imposed Twitter exile.

"I just have Instagram. I put up pictures of my nephews and nieces and pictures of my family," Ramsey says. "I thought about bringing (Twitter) back, but I haven't missed it one bit. I might make a Facebook page with coaches and friends, but I'm not worrying about it, to be honest."



ATHLONSPORTS.COM



50 Twitter accounts every college football fan should follow.

AthlonSports.com/50Twitter



# THE HEISMAN REVOLUTION

by David Fox

Three sophomores and a freshman have won college football's most prestigious award since 2007. What's next?

If Heisman voters were as open minded as Hugh Green's peers in 1980, the fraternity of the award for the most outstanding college football player would be much different. During a tour organized to promote the 1980 football season, the Pittsburgh defensive end, along with five other top players that year, made a handful of stops across the country to meet with reporters.

The tour led to plenty of down time for Green, Cal quarterback Rich Campbell, Purdue quarterback Mark Herrmann, Alabama running back Major Ogilvie, South Carolina running back George Rogers and Baylor linebacker Mike Singletary. During a stop somewhere in Indiana, Green recalls, the six conducted their own vote for who would win the Heisman in 1980.

Whether through humility or foresight, Green was the only one who ended up making the correct pick. He chose Rogers.

The other five picked Green.

Green had a fine season in 1980, wrapping up one of history's best careers by a defensive player. He won the Maxwell Award for Player of the Year on a team that finished 11-1 and No. 2 in the country. He was a consensus All-American and the Lombardi Award winner. He stood out on a team that included quarterback Dan Marino and Outland Trophy-winning offensive tackle Mark May.

The Heisman, though, was out of reach for Green.

South Carolina's Rogers beat Green by 267 points in the voting that year. Still, it was a victory for defensive players. In the two-platoon era, Green's 861 points were the most for a defender until Michigan's Charles Woodson won the Heisman in 1997. Woodson, though, returned kicks and played receiver, putting him over the top in the Heisman race.

"That's the perspective of the best player — he has to have possession of the ball," Green says. "The game has changed a million different ways. ... It shouldn't just be a quarterback and running back on offense who gets to be the best player in the country in that particular year."

Beyond Green, the 1980 Heisman vote was also notable for the third-place finisher, Herschel Walker. The Georgia running back earned the most first-place votes (107) and total points (683) for a freshman up to that point.

So here's the question: Had the 1980 Heisman vote been taken in 2012, would the result

have been different? Would Green have won? What about Walker?

Since 2007, the Heisman has undergone a major shift.

That season brought the award's first sophomore winner (Florida's Tim Tebow), followed by the second in 2008 (Oklahoma's Sam Bradford) and the third in 2009 (Alabama's Mark Ingram). In 2012, Texas A&M's Johnny Manziel became the first freshman to win the award — albeit a red-shirt freshman and not the youngest player to win the Heisman. That's still Ingram, who won at age 19.

And those are just the winners who have bucked Heisman tradition. Three defensive players have been Heisman finalists since 2009, and two of those — Notre Dame's Manti Te'o and Nebraska's Ndamukong Suh — were purely defensive players.

"Most of the barriers have been broken down," Manziel says. "The way the award is set up, it's more the most outstanding player in all of college football, whatever the situation. If people think you're the best college football player that year, you deserve to win it, whether you play defense or whatever."

The mainstreaming of sophomores, freshmen and defensive players in the Heisman voting may have been tough to envision a decade ago.

"The game has changed a million different ways. ... It shouldn't just be a quarterback and running back on offense who gets to be the best player in the country in that particular year."

— 1980 Maxwell and Lombardi Award winner and All-American Hugh Green





Just 10 years before Manziel won the Heisman, the balloting was typical for the award most years. USC senior quarterback Carson Palmer won in 2002, a year when all of the top 10 vote-getters were either quarterbacks or running backs, seniors or juniors, with nine of them from power conferences. The only true outlier that season was Marshall quarterback Byron Leftwich, who finished sixth.

Since Palmer, only one senior — Ohio State's Troy Smith in 2006 — has won the award. And now, the 2013 Heisman race opens with a handful of possibilities for rare and first-time achievements.

Manziel has a chance to join Ohio State's Archie Griffin (1974-75) as the only repeat winner in history. In theory, he'll have three chances to join Griffin in elite company.

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**"Most of the barriers have been broken down. The way the award is set up, it's more the most outstanding player in all of college football, whatever the situation. If people think you're the best college football player that year, you deserve to win it, whether you play defense or whatever."**

— 2012 Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Manziel

However, after this season, Manziel will be eligible to leave school early for the NFL Draft.

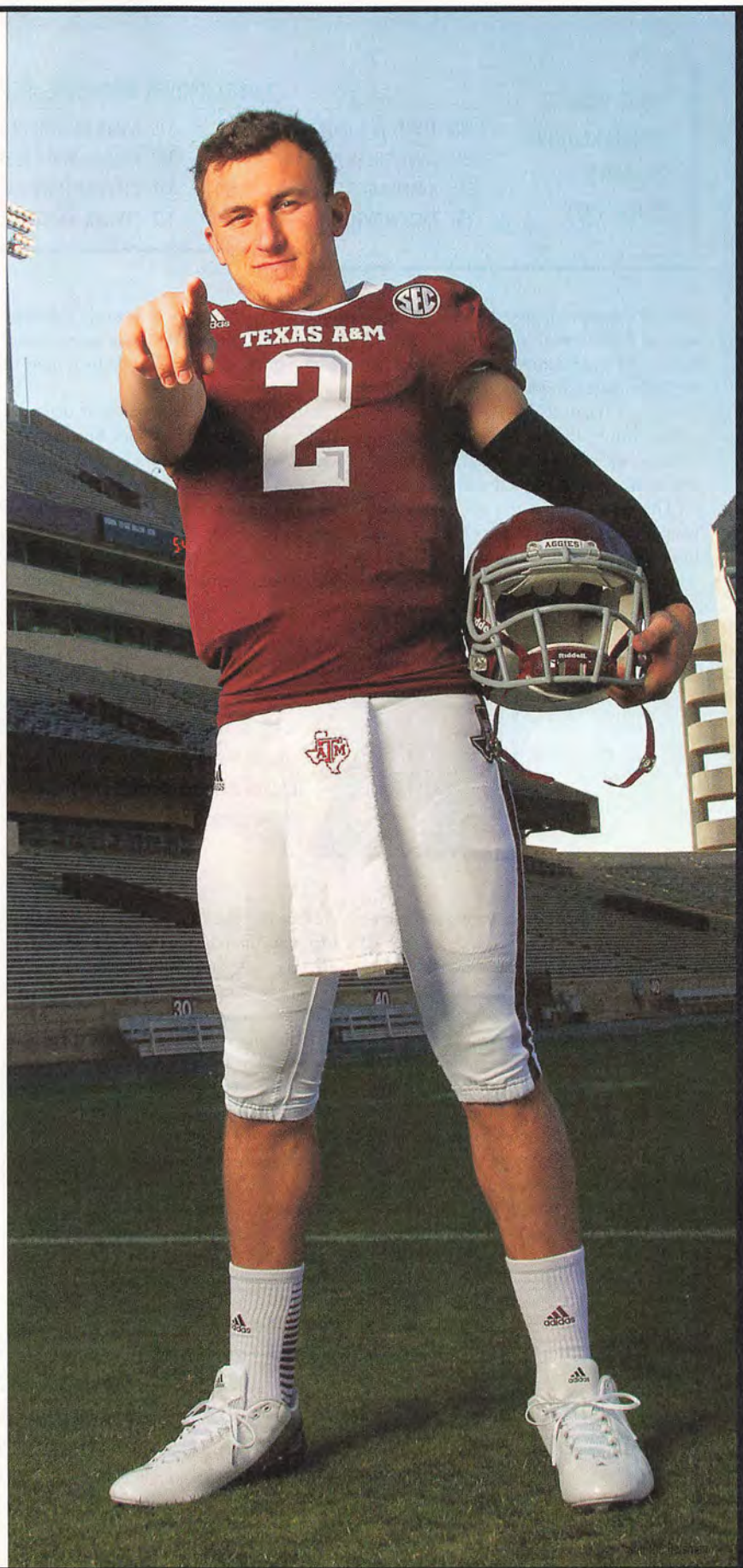
Manziel will be a contender in 2013, but to become a two-time winner he may have to beat out a defensive end. South Carolina's Jadeveon Clowney is unquestionably the nation's top defensive player and already appears to be the No. 1 pick in the 2014 NFL Draft.

In short, this isn't your father's Heisman.

"There's a clear demarcation from the Tebow point onward," says Chris Huston, founder of the Heisman Pundit blog. "It doesn't really matter if they are seniors or juniors or sophomores or freshmen. What wins out are these tremendous numbers."

If a defensive player is going to win the Heisman, though, the overwhelming numbers may be tough to acquire.

Green has been beating the drum for a defensive player to win the award for several years. He begrudgingly latched onto Michi-





**MOST POINTS  
FOR DEFENSIVE  
PLAYERS  
SINCE 1972**

**1,815 CHARLES WOODSON, MICHIGAN (1997)\***

1,706 MANTI TE'O NOTRE DAME (2012)	395 BRIAN BOSWORTH OKLAHOMA (1986)
861 HUGH GREEN PITTSBURGH (1980)	392 MARVIN JONES FLORIDA STATE (1992)
815 NDAMUKONG SUH NEBRASKA (2009)	357 STEVE EMTMAN WASHINGTON (1991)
652 RICH GLOVER NEBRASKA (1972)	327 TYRANN MATHIEU LSU (2011)



\*won the Heisman

gan's Woodson, who played offense (17 total touches for 259 yards from scrimmage and three TDs) and returned punts (78-yard TD vs. Ohio State) in addition to excelling at cornerback (eight INTs).

The former Pittsburgh lineman is convinced it will take a gargantuan statistical effort to overcome an offensive skill player.

"This guy, to catch the eye of America, would have to have at least 17 or 18 sacks, five or six interceptions returned for touchdowns — something totally incredible. He'd

downs and more touchdowns," Clowney says. "They don't worry about the sacks and stuff. I guess they feel like offense is more of an individual side."

Ironically, the recent batch of defensive players to become Heisman finalists were contenders in the more traditional sense.

Among Huston's "10 Heismandments" are stipulations that an aspiring winner must put up good numbers in big games on TV, must have prior name recognition and must play for a title contender or a traditional power.

Anyone looking for a Heisman-type moment from Clowney just needs to do a quick YouTube or GIF search. Clowney's finest play — his game-changing tackle and forced fumble of Michigan's Vincent Smith in the Outback Bowl — has been on a highlight reel since January.

Name recognition? Check. Stats? Check. Game-turning plays in big games? Check.

"He has as good as a setup for a defensive player as we've seen," Huston says.

But Clowney isn't up against the Heisman



Name recognition? Check. Stats? Check. Game-turning plays in big games? Check. But **JADEVEON CLOWNEY** isn't up against the Heisman field of a decade or so ago. He's up against some of the most prolific quarterbacks in the history of the game.

have to totally dominate anything and everything he plays. ...

"He'd have to sack the quarterback and intercept at the same time."

Clowney would tend to agree. He was been touted as one of the best players in college football even before he landed at South Carolina. He was the consensus No. 1 recruit in the class of 2011 and earned SEC Freshman of the Year honors. As a sophomore, he was a first-team All-American and finished sixth in the Heisman voting.

But even he concedes that the quarterbacks he's bringing down have a better chance at the most coveted award in college sports.

"That's what the people like — touch-

None of those stipulations require a Heisman hopeful to be the best at his position or even the best player in his locker room.

One could argue that neither Te'o nor LSU defensive back Tyrann Mathieu was the best defensive player on his own team the seasons they went to the Heisman ceremony. And does anyone remember that Suh was fourth in the Big 12 in sacks the year he was a finalist?

Instead, voters gravitated to Te'o's two interceptions in the Michigan game, Mathieu's four defensive and special teams touchdowns, and Suh's 4.5 sacks of Texas' Colt McCoy in a Big 12 Championship Game loss.

That's why Clowney is the best defensive candidate for the award since Woodson.

field of a decade or so ago. He's up against some of the most prolific quarterbacks in the history of the game.

Huston, who has been studying Heisman trends since he worked in the USC athletic department when Palmer won the award, doesn't attribute the change in voting trends to any new open-mindedness by voters. Instead, the numbers are impossible to ignore, he says. Huston describes the last six years as the rise of the Super Quarterback. The widespread use of spread offenses, the dual-threat quarterbacks excelling in these systems and the proof they can win at a championship level have changed voters' ideas of the typical Heisman candidate.

**MOST FIRST-  
PLACE VOTES  
FOR DEFENSIVE  
PLAYERS  
SINCE 1972**

**433 CHARLES WOODSON, MICHIGAN (1997)\***

321 MANTI TE'O NOTRE DAME (2012)	81 MARVIN JONES FLORIDA STATE (1992)
179 HUGH GREEN PITTSBURGH (1980)	47 RANDY GRADISHAR OHIO STATE (1973)
161 NDAMUKONG SUH NEBRASKA (2009)	39 LUCIOUS SELMON OKLAHOMA (1973)
99 RICH GLOVER NEBRASKA (1972)	34 TYRANN MATHIEU LSU (2011)



\*won the Heisman



## HOW RETURNING HEISMAN WINNERS HAVE FARED SINCE 1975

**2008 TIM TEBOW**  
FLORIDA (THIRD, 151 POINTS BEHIND WINNER)

**2004 JASON WHITE**  
OKLAHOMA (THIRD, 368 POINTS BEHIND WINNER)

**2009 TIM TEBOW**  
FLORIDA (FIFTH, 914 POINTS BEHIND WINNER)

**1979 BILLY SIMS**  
OKLAHOMA (SECOND, 922 POINTS BEHIND WINNER)

**1991 TY DETMER**  
BYU (THIRD, 1,632 POINTS BEHIND WINNER)

**2005 MATT LEINART**  
USC (THIRD, 1,744 POINTS BEHIND WINNER)

**2010 MARK INGRAM**  
ALABAMA (NOT IN TOP 10)

**2009 SAM BRADFORD**  
OKLAHOMA (NOT IN TOP 10/INJURED)

by total points



## MOST POINTS FOR OFFENSIVE LINEMEN SINCE 1972

**599 ORLANDO PACE OHIO STATE (1996)**

**524 JOHN HICKS OHIO STATE (1973)**

**137 DAVE RIMINGTON NEBRASKA (1982)**

**116 BRYANT MCKINNIE MIAMI (2001)**

**81 BILL FRALIC PITTSBURGH (1984)**

**66 BILL FRALIC PITTSBURGH (1983)**

**52 TONY MANDARICH MICHIGAN STATE (1988)**

by total points

In a former era, Tebow's bruising option attack, Bradford's Air Raid approach, the track star ability of Baylor's Robert Griffin III or Auburn's Cam Newton, or Manziel's improvisation would have been derided as a "system," unworthy of the Heisman.

But no matter the style, these offenses are run by great athletes who happen to play quarterback, and they're the centerpiece of their offenses like never before.

Each of the last five quarterbacks to win the Heisman since and including Tebow has topped at least 500 plays of total offense (carries plus pass attempts) in the years they won the Heisman. Manziel had 635 last season.

Of the six quarterbacks to win the Heisman before 2007, only one topped 500 plays during his award-winning season.

In addition, when spread quarterbacks compete for national championships or win in major conferences — rather than putting up numbers in Conference USA or the MAC — it's that much tougher for a voter to write off a sophomore or a freshman who happens to be a so-called "system" quarterback.

"It's kind of overcome the usual biases that used to exist against freshmen or sophomores," Huston says. "It was not an intentional change. It was structural. By the nature of college football, players need more time building name recognition. Now you have guys who are freshmen and sophomores doing all the things Manziel did. It's easy to quickly gain notoriety."

Notoriety seems to be the key to a non-traditional candidate overcoming quarterbacks or running backs.

Clowney has it. Te'o, Mathieu and Suh earned it.

But what about offensive linemen? Have Heisman voters evolved to a point where linemen could become serious candidates?

Prior to the season, a handful of columnists posed that question about Alabama's Barrett Jones, who at the time was the most decorated offensive player for the Crimson Tide. During his career, he started at guard,

tackle and center. He also followed one of Huston's other Heismandments: He's likable.

If there were a perfect candidate to represent the offensive line in New York, it seemed to be Jones.

Yet Jones was not one of the top 10 vote-getters in 2012.

The last offensive lineman to make a serious push for the Heisman was Ohio State's Orlando Pace, who finished fourth in 1996. It was the best finish for an offensive lineman since Buckeyes tackle John Hicks was the runner-up to Penn State's John Cappelletti in 1973.

Hicks, who blocked for Heisman winner Archie Griffin, says publicity will be the key for a lineman to win the award.

"With the Ohio State publicity machine, if you have a great season here, you can win the Heisman here," Hicks says. "Can a lineman win it? Sure. But he's going to have to be in the national conscience."

That's a double-edged sword. Even if a lineman or a defensive player garners enough name recognition to get to New York through being on television and his highlights showing up on YouTube and social media, quarterbacks and running backs still have all those advantages, too.

Plus every play of theirs is in the camera's eye, and every stat readily accessible in a box score.

"The problem with defensive players and linemen is the metrics," Huston says. "The camera follows the ball. The people who argue on behalf (of linemen) tend to argue very nebulous things — they were triple-teamed half the season and things like that. If you look at a box score you don't get tackle numbers, you don't get pancakes."

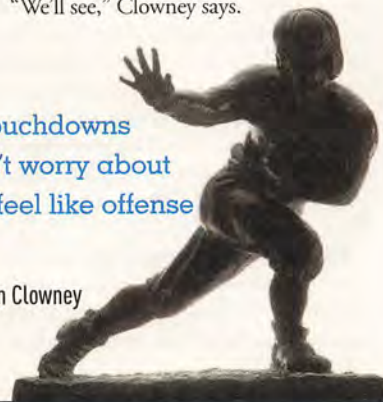
But that's the conventional wisdom. And if the last six seasons have proven anything, it's that the conventional wisdom about the Heisman does not apply.

In 2013, college football may be ready for another two-time Heisman winner. Or a full-time defensive player.

"We'll see," Clowney says.

**"That's what the people like — touchdowns and more touchdowns. They don't worry about the sacks and stuff. I guess they feel like offense is more of an individual side."**

— South Carolina defensive end Jadeveon Clowney





# UNDER A MICROSCOPE

College football referees face more scrutiny than ever before. Athlon Sports talked to the six people who understand that better than anyone — the officiating coordinators in the AQ conferences.

by Jon Solomon

College football has a blown officiating call to thank for South Carolina's Jadeveon Clowney blowing up a ball-carrier in the hit seen around the Internet.

Before Clowney's devastatingly legal Outback Bowl hit last season, Big East referee Jeff Maconaghy allowed Michigan to retain possession by awarding a first down. One problem: The nose of the football clearly didn't reach the first-down marker.

"It's just a mistake, and I know that's tough for people to deal with given social media and technology," says Terry McAulay, the officiating coordinator of the American Athletic Conference (former Big East). "They say, 'How can I get it right on the couch and they can't?' They don't understand the pressure these guys are under and the fact they're very, very good with 99 percent accuracy. But one percent can sometimes hurt us."

College football officials have never been under so much scrutiny. On the flip side, their bosses have never communicated and leaned on each other as much as they do now.

Officiating needs all the help it can get this season. With player safety now a heavy focus, consistency will be called into question in a new way by a rule that automatically ejects a player who delivers a hit to the head of a defenseless player.

The state of college football officiating is evolving. To understand where it's at, Athlon Sports talked individually with the six officiating coordinators at BCS conferences — Steve Shaw of the SEC, Doug Rhoads of the ACC, Bill Carollo of the Big Ten, Walt Anderson of the Big 12, Tony Corrente of the Pac-12 and McAulay of the American — plus former NFL officiating supervisor and current Fox NFL rules analyst Mike Pereira. Here are excerpts from those candid conversations about the men fans love to hate.

## What do you think of the ejection rule for targeting a defenseless player?

**Carollo, Big Ten:** "We want officials to know if they get a little too anxious and they're wrong and throw the starting linebacker out of the game, we'll support them and we have replay to confirm. If we really do care about these players 10 to 15 years from now, we have to change the rule. That's a big price to pay, but we're willing to take that risk."

**Corrente, Pac-12:** "What happens when it's a deliberate action vs. an accidental action? That's what we want clarity on. ... I've heard some coaches say, 'You guys are changing the game and this isn't football.' I say, 'You're right. This isn't football.' The player safety issues we're seeing today were not part of the game 20 years ago. I tell coaches five percent of their players will be pro players, meaning 90 to 95 percent will need to be functioning adults down the road. Don't you want them to be functioning adults and not vegetables? I think it's going to take a while for the culture to change, and we'll start to see high hits diminish."

**Shaw, SEC:** "I think making the ejection immediate in a game will change the mindset of the players. I can show you video last year of a player making a high hit on a receiver, he sees three flags thrown, and he's back there chest-bumping his fellow players. That mindset now has to go to, 'Oh no, I'm out of the game.' We're going to be very vigilant to make those calls."

**McAulay, American:** "I think our struggle is going to be 13 minutes to go in the first quarter, this situation pops up, and you lose your free safety for the rest of the game because he did lower his target, but there's still helmet-to-helmet contact that has to be called. There's no leeway for the official. I'm struggling with that aspect of it. I understand the argument that

"They don't understand the pressure these guys are under and the fact they're very, very good with 99 percent accuracy. But one percent can sometimes hurt us."

— American Athletic Conference officiating coordinator Terry McAulay

there's such a serious consequence and we can live with an ejection here and there that may not be warranted. They may be right. I don't dismiss that argument. I'm not there yet."

**Pereira, ex-NFL:** "When the penalty is so severe that it includes automatic ejection, boy, you better have a consistent philosophy. Although they're backing it up with replay to make sure the ejection is warranted, I still think consistency is going to be an issue. Replay is going to have to prove without a shadow of a doubt that he shouldn't be ejected."

## How challenging will it be for replay officials to decide whether to uphold the ejection?

**Corrente, Pac-12:** "I'm advocating we bring replay down on the field like the NFL does. The referee is the ultimate rules decision-maker on the field."

Lance King/Getty Images





**McAulay, American:** "We take the biggest plays out of the referee's hands. I think the referees' eyes give us a better chance of reaching near 100 percent accuracy. This is going to be a very, very tough process to get through for officials, replay and coordinators."

**Last year, College Football Officiating, LLC, used a committee of officiating coordinators to review hits to the head and recommend player disciplinary action to conferences. How often did conferences go along with those non-binding recommendations?**

**Corrente, Pac-12:** "We read the committee's recommendations but we kept everything in house. We believed we had a due process program in place that was understood. ... Like any committee, you always have a degree of skepticism of whether anybody who is associated with a conference could have underlying reasons for removing someone else's players. But I believe every-

body in that room was above that approach."

**Carollo, Big Ten:** "I brought the Aaron Murray hit (by Alabama defensive lineman Quinton Dial in the SEC Championship Game) and a dozen other plays to the rules committee about hitting a defenseless player and launching. The Murray play would be an automatic ejection and suspension now because we will define a defenseless player more in line with NFL rules. The CFO committee recommended a suspension (which didn't happen). I know the SEC handles some things internally and there were a couple other plays in that game. I don't second-guess these guys. If you really want consistency, that's why we created that panel. We're not very consistent in calling it and disciplining it around the country. Everyone kind of interpreted it their own way. Some sent letters of reprimand and didn't start the game. Some had a half-game suspension. Some had an entire game suspension." (Shaw, whose conference handed out three one-game suspensions

in 2012, declined to discuss the Murray hit.)

**The Pac-12 threw more flags by far than any conference last season. Why was that?**

**Corrente, Pac-12:** "We had a tremendous increase last year of false starts. I had coaches tell me, 'Tony, I don't have the players to run our offense yet.' If that happens, you're making a lot of basic mistakes. So we saw an awful lot of penalties that I think this year will diminish dramatically. We also took a very aggressive stance with regard to player safety fouls, and in doing so, those numbers went up."

**Pereira, ex-NFL:** "Of the games I saw, the Pac-12 probably had a little overemphasis on some of the post-play fouls, the pushing and shoving that they might be better getting in between of without resulting in a flag. I think it happens when you get a new coordinator like Corrente, who made a multitude of training tapes and put out a lot of information to officials."



Could you envision College Football Officiating, headed by national coordinator Rogers Redding, ever receiving more authority to make binding decisions so there is greater uniformity between conferences?

**McAulay, American:** "Basketball got way ahead of us on uniformity. Conferences have their own little world that they get to do what they want to do without some absolute controlling authority to get everybody on the same page. We're doing the best we can in that culture. But without that one commissioner overseeing everything like the NFL, it makes it more difficult to herd the cats. ... You see what's going on with (conference) realignment. If you can't control that aspect for the good of the game, how can you control the lower parts of it? We're all working together better than we ever have. Rogers does a good job of managing the strong-willed personalities of the coordinators."

**Anderson, Big 12:** "I don't think you'll ever see one person trying to oversee (10 FBS) conferences. But what we are experimenting with is doing it on more of a regional basis, such as our partnership with the Mountain West and Southland Conference."

**Carollo, Big Ten:** "One of our goals is you should turn the game on and don't know which conference is officiating. We should have one set of mechanics and one rulebook and one philosophy on how we interpret calls. Is that aspirational? Maybe slightly today. Can we get everybody in the country doing it the same way? It's pretty hard, but doable. I have seen in my four years in college where individual conferences have said this is how we do it, and those walls have been knocked down."

**Rhoads, ACC:** "We need to continue to keep the pressure on us to make sure the uniformity/consistency piece is there. The NFL has 32 teams and they own the rules. College football is much broader with more than 120 teams alone in the FBS level. To get consistency in the application of a rule is a Herculean task for anybody. ... Here's the truth: The percentage of mistakes is very, very low. When you look at calls under the microscope with the media and social media, you're going to find about a third of the time the official was wrong, a third of the time the official was right, and a third of it is judgment and you can talk about judgment until you die. The equal cry should be these guys are right a bunch of the time."

#### What needs to be changed in officiating?

**Carollo, Big Ten:** "The coaches and players improve at a 45-degree angle. We (as officials) sometimes don't stay in that 45-degree angle that keeps improving, and I see the gap widening a little more. ... In college, we'll make 5.5 to 6 mistakes every game. Our goal is maybe average four mistakes. The NFL target is 3.5 mistakes per game. We're trying, but we're kind of chasing the game. If you look at video 10 years ago of the SEC Championship Game, you go, 'Whoa.' You can see the change in the type of athletes out there. We need to be able to change."

**McAulay, American:** "We started looking at team tendencies a couple years ago. There was always a sense if you look at the teams, you'll make prejudgments and make an error, so we started slowly by looking at formations and pre-snap movements. We found, 'Oh, this team runs the bubble screen a lot, so what does that mean in terms of how we look?' We found it doesn't make us prejudge on what fouls they might commit. We were able to judge it without surprise."

**Shaw, SEC:** "We have to continue to modify our mechanics. If you're in the proper place at the right time and trained where you should be, you'll be a better official. We have some really good new mechanics we're going to look at."



Jadeveon Clowney's devastating hit on Michigan's Vincent Smith in the Outback Bowl was made possible by a blown call moments before that allowed the Wolverines to retain possession.

"You should turn the game on and don't know which conference is officiating. We should have one set of mechanics and one rulebook and one philosophy on how we interpret calls. Is that aspirational? Maybe slightly today. Can we get everybody in the country doing it the same way? It's pretty hard, but doable."

— Big Ten officiating coordinator Bill Carollo

What's your philosophy on whether more experienced and qualified officials should work the highest-profile games?

**Anderson, Big 12:** "Just like players, officials are rookies at some point in their career. Even though you have confidence in them or they wouldn't be there, it's not like a guy who's a veteran official and everybody knows him and is comfortable with him. I'm a very big proponent there will be some assignments



you'll put your very best officials in those environments because of the environments they're working."

**Shaw, SEC:** "Every game is important. But there are certain games that it's easier to work a young official in, so that's what we try to do."

**Rhoads, ACC:** "I don't look at it as that's my No. 1 crew and that's my No. 6 crew and this is a big game so we should put No. 1 there. There may be a fan perspective or a coach perspective to that. But if you have that much disparity from one crew to another, then you're not training them correctly."

**The Big 12 plans to experiment with eight officials instead of seven, putting an extra one in the offensive backfield with the referee. What's the thinking behind that concept?**

**Anderson, Big 12:** "We have to keep pace with the game because it's constantly evolving. With offenses going much more spread, (officiating) coverages that were for decades defined by seven officials are really appearing to be inadequate. There are a lot of passing plays that create blanket areas that aren't covered by anybody, such as the tackle area opposite the referee. It also gives another set of eyes for hits on a quarterback."

**Pereira, ex-NFL:** "I don't like it. To me, the perfect number is seven. All you get is another opinion and it doesn't mean it's another good one."

**Given the scrutiny on officiating these days, how hard is it to find new officials?**

**Shaw, SEC:** "At the entry level, we're not getting the former players or people like we have before. That's where the risk is now. It's not in the next four to five years for the SEC because we've got great talent out there to choose from."

**McAulay, American:** "You're not getting 18-, 19- or 20-year-olds anymore hardly ever getting into officiating. If they do it, it's later after college at 28, 32, 35, which is really too late. I started at 16 and that experience was invaluable. You lose a lot of snaps getting into it later."

**Pereira, ex-NFL:** "There's so much emphasis on officiating, including myself on TV, that if you're trying to get into high school football and get yelled at by coaches and parents, maybe you say, 'Is it worth it?' The rate of retention of new officials at the high school level and even the Pop Warner level is not very good. You have to be a different person to put up with the abuse that goes along with this job."

**Technology continues to evolve. The SEC uses wireless headsets for officials to talk. The Big Ten has studied goal line cameras. There are even companies**



Alabama's Quinton Dial avoided a suspension from the BCS National Championship following a helmet-to-helmet hit on Georgia quarterback Aaron Murray in the SEC Championship Game — a play that failed even to draw a flag.

"I brought the Aaron Murray hit (by Alabama defensive lineman Quinton Dial in the SEC Championship Game) and a dozen other plays to the rules committee about hitting a defenseless player and launching. The Murray play would be an automatic ejection and suspension now because we will define a defenseless player more in line with NFL."

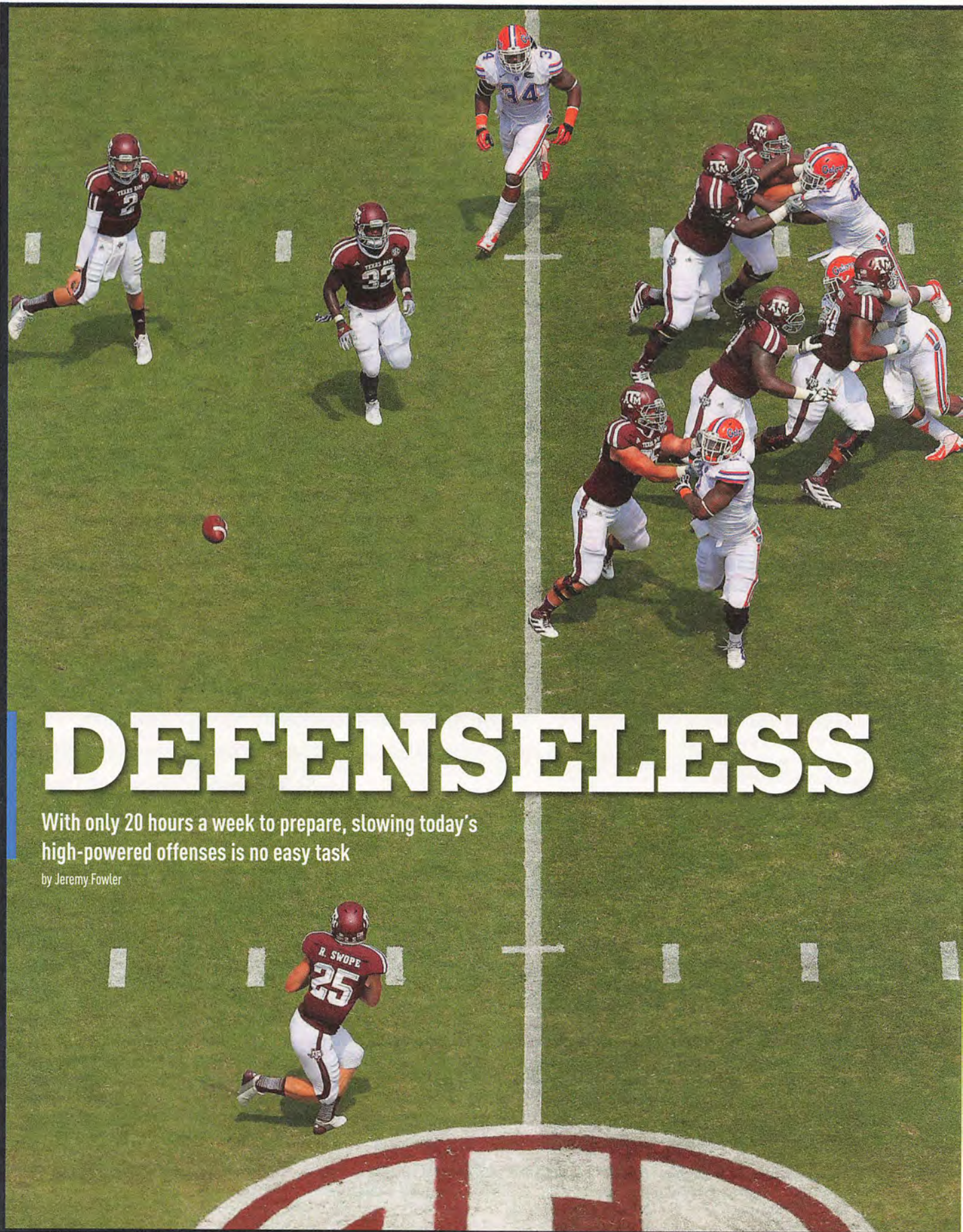
— Big Ten officiating coordinator Bill Carollo

**proposing chips in footballs to determine first downs and touchdowns. Where is this headed?**

**Anderson, Big 12:** "There's a strong lobby that if we had the technology to determine where that football is, would it not be worth having it? Those are the decisions as the game evolves that will have to be made. Then the question is which parts of the game just by tradition do you want to preserve? There's not ever going to be a perfect solution."

**McAulay, American:** "If we ever get to the point where we have almost a sterile, perfect environment, I think people are going to turn away from the game. We're humans in a game played by humans. I think that's one of the great things about our game. People the next day can talk about the bad pass, the poor call on defense or the missed call by an official."





# DEFENSELESS

With only 20 hours a week to prepare, slowing today's high-powered offenses is no easy task

by Jeremy Fowler



**N**o huddle. Read option. Spread. Triple option. Pro-style. It's enough to confound even the most seasoned defensive coordinator. Try teaching it to a group of 18-to-21-year-olds in 20 hours.

"Being a defensive coordinator nowadays is maybe the most difficult job in sports," says Bob Shoop, who's directed Vanderbilt's defense the past two years. "You've got 20 hours a week — basically three practices — to get ready for what can be a different look every game."

Offensive coordinators make more money, but defensive coordinators might lose more hair because of a job that sometimes reaches double black diamond levels of difficulty — and anxiety.

"There are athletes out there. Explosive plays happen," says Georgia defensive coordinator Todd Grantham. "Sometimes you're just going to give up points."

And more points are being scored these days. In 2012, 30 FBS teams averaged 35 points or more per game. In 2008, only 19 teams accomplished that feat. The obstacles facing a defense have never been greater — quick spots by officials, substitution patterns that favor the offense, difficulty avoiding pass interference calls, offensive variety, dual-threat quarterbacks and, possibly the most crucial reason, difficulty recruiting elite talent to play on the defensive front.

Those factors can leave a defensive coordinator feeling, well, defenseless.

"Absolutely, they do," Texas A&M defensive coordinator Mark Snyder says. "The days of lining up (in a) 4-3 (base defense) every down are over defensively. You have to mix and match. You have to be adaptable to stop any kind of offense. And sometimes that's still not enough."

There should be a support group for this stuff.

The scoring surge creates more YouTube-inspired game action, depending on your vantage point, and that might be by design.

"People don't want to see a 5-3 football game," Oregon State defensive coordinator Mark Banker says. "They want to see it 50-40."

Banker has the arduous task of coordinating a Pac-12 defense. Last season, the Beavers prepared for at least six variations of a spread offense or no-huddle attack, Banker says, none more effective than run-heavy rival Oregon, which routinely snapped the ball every 13 to 14 seconds.

The Ducks kept running the weak-side sweep to the single tight end side. OSU's corners never could establish tackling leverage consistently on the play, resulting in a 48-24 loss that made Sunday morning just a little more painful.

The Beavers are very familiar with Chip Kelly's offense and entered the game well prepared for it. Doesn't mean you can stop it.

"In the course of the game, if you don't have an answer to (a play), they keep coming back to it in the wrong situation," Banker says. "That quarterback (Marcus Mariota) is a helluva player. Beat us twice with his feet."

"That quarterback" is something you hear a lot from coordinators, but more on that in a second.

As if the weak-side sweep is Banker's only problem throughout a year. Officiating in the college game presents challenges for a defense. Some officials spot the ball quickly after a play, sometimes within a few seconds. That's much faster than in the NFL, a league that's slower to change — in part because it doesn't have to. Just look at the Pistol offense, which Nevada had been running for eight years before it became a trend in the NFL last season.

On occasion, Banker sees an official standing over the ball to ensure the defense is set. That's if he's lucky, of course. If an offense substitutes, a defense, by rule, has the right to match. But that doesn't always happen, Banker says, because some offenses are subbing right before the snap.

"To me, some of that stuff ends up being gimmicky," Banker says. "That's not necessarily

about one player versus another. It's somebody taking advantage of the rules."

Once the ball snaps, it's time to tackle a dual-threat quarterback who can scramble or throw for 60 yards on any down.

It's not like teams just started getting creative. The game evolves. Offensive coaches recycle ideas. Defenses counter. Rinse. Repeat.

But offenses have more layers, styles — and more 40-yard-dashing quarterbacks — than ever before. This has clearly increased the challenges facing a coordinator.

Northwestern defensive coordinator Mike Hankwitz, a veteran of four decades in collegiate coaching, has seen more offenses than a county judge. He says he'd much rather face a pro-style quarterback than a dual-threat.

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And sometimes that's  
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**— Texas A&M defensive  
coordinator Mark Snyder**



"You don't have the scramble dimensions. You don't have the option dimensions, the improvisational dimensions," he says. "That element you can't always plan for. You can have great coverage and try to rush the rush lanes and be tight on people in man, but if that quarterback has the seam and he's mobile enough, he's going to hurt you with the scramble."

In the numbers game, offenses can throw more bodies at you, Grantham says.

Defenses have specialty players such as a third down rusher (nickel corners are practically starters now), but for the most part, defenders in college are asked to contain on every down.

"Offensively, you can role-play your guys, where this guy will run certain kind of runs or pass plays," says Grantham, who estimates that he prepares for 20-to-25 different offensive formations in an average week.



"On D, you're out there. You have to play whether run or pass. You have to be able to adjust formations, handle matchups. Defensively, players have to do more things."

Most coordinators agree: Having good players can ease the challenges defenses face. Getting the right ones isn't always easy.

The elite defensive players rise to the top. Seventeen of the top-25 players in Rivals' 2013 rankings played on defense, yet 50 of the next 75 players on the list were on offense or labeled "athlete."

High school teams often put their best players on offense when it used to be the other way around, Snyder says.

Coordinators say teams are looking for beef up front while recruiting speedier linebackers with coverage skills and stockpiling cornerbacks, up to seven or eight some years. Defenders must quickly develop the versatility to tackle a 240-pound fullback and cover a slot receiver with 4.4 speed. Good luck teaching that combination of skills.

"I think defensive players can be tougher to evaluate, especially on the back end," California head coach Sonny Dykes says. "Identifying the right corners who have good enough footwork and instincts for that position can be a challenge."

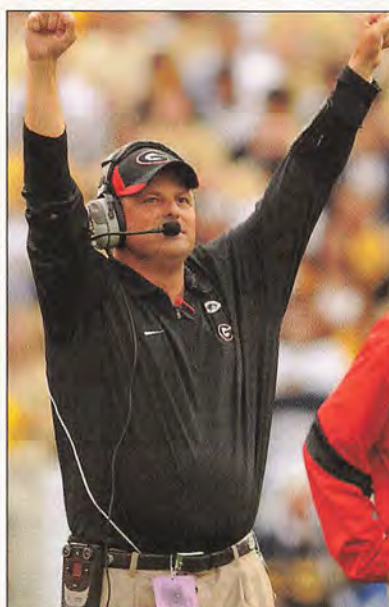
Linebackers might as well be corners because of the coverage skills necessary in certain defensive schemes.

"Everybody's making linebackers tackle in space," Snyder says. "And linemen have to run sideline to sideline now."

California offensive coordinator Tony Franklin believes that it's easier to recruit players to his side of the ball. "More people want to be on offense," Franklin says. "And offenses are tailored around all different types of skill sets."

Clearly defensive coaches have done something right in recruiting over the years. Offenses were forced to innovate, because the quality of play on defense was improving.

"These (defensive players) are 280 and can run, or even 300 pounds and can run," Ne-



"Offensively, you can role-play your guys, where this guy will run certain kind of runs or pass plays. On D, you're out there. You have to play whether run or pass. You have to be able to adjust formations, handle matchups. Defensively, players have to do more things."

— Georgia defensive coordinator Todd Grantham

braska offensive coordinator Tim Beck says. "Linebackers, secondary, those guys are really fast. So you have to adjust offensively."

Shutouts are great and all, but with college football defenses, perfection is relative. The goals are modest now. Northwestern aims to keep teams below 20 points per game. If you stay below 20, Hankwitz says, you're probably in the top 25 nationally.

He's right. In 2012, 21 FBS teams gave up less than 20 per game.

"There was a time when anything under 17 was pretty darn good," Hankwitz says. "Now under 20 is probably the equivalent from 15 years ago."

Less than 17 points is the goal at Georgia, which is a sensible number in the SEC. But Grantham will take winning plays in a 40–30 game over a 10–3 loss that looks good on paper.

Take a 51–44 shootout against Tennessee early last season. The Bulldogs' stat sheet wasn't pretty, but those three forced turnovers in the final six minutes were game-deciding plays.

"Hey, at the end of the day, do what you have to do to win," Grantham says.

The coordinator congregation shouts "Amen!" to that.



"In the course of the game, if you don't have an answer to (a play), they keep coming back to it in the wrong situation. That quarterback (Marcus Mariota, right) is a helluva player. Beat us twice with his feet."

— Oregon State defensive coordinator Mark Banker

Grantham: AP Photo/Paul Abell; Mariota: Craig Mitchell/der





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# COLLEGE FOOTBALL ROUNDTABLE

Athlon's editors lay their reputations on the line with some predictions and analysis for the 2013 college football season

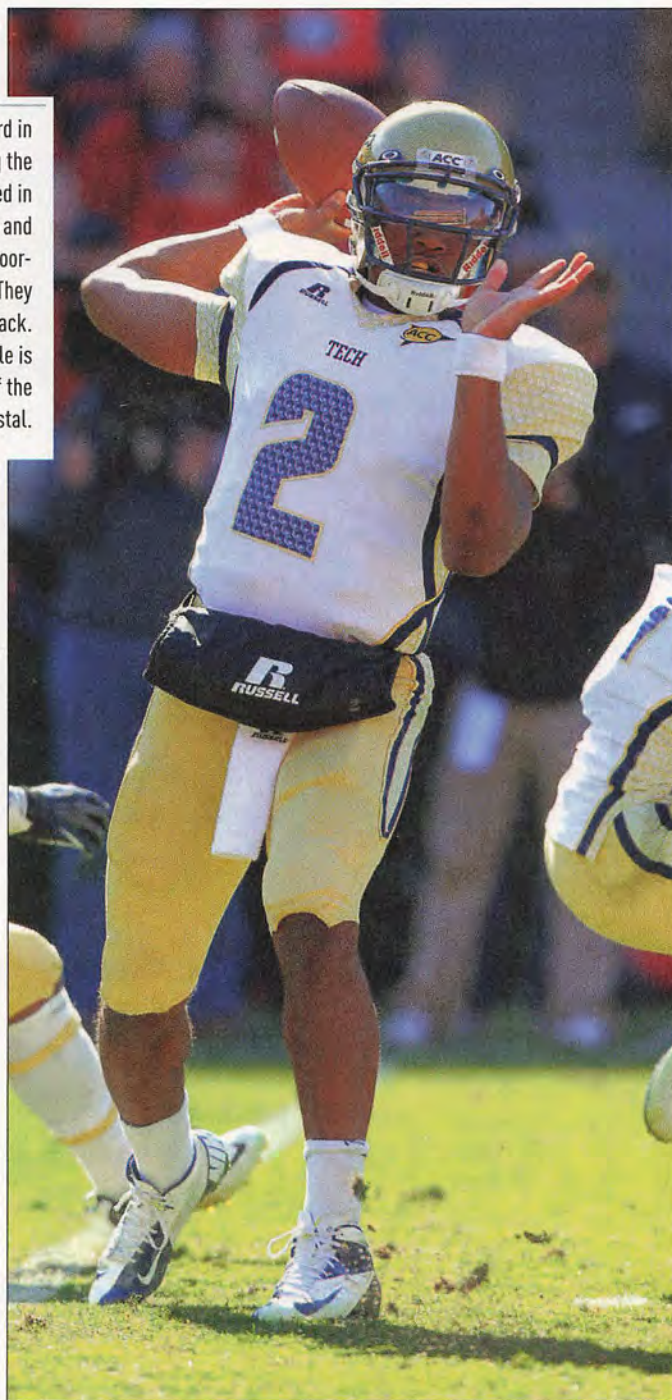
Name a team that you like as a sleeper this year — maybe a team that you like more than the rest of the staff at Athlon Sports.

**MITCH LIGHT:** I like Georgia Tech, which we ended up picking third in the ACC Coastal. I thought you could make a case for picking the Yellow Jackets as high as No. 1 in the division. I know they struggled in some non-conference games last year, especially at home to BYU and Middle Tennessee, but they played better after changing defensive coordinators. Now Ted Roof comes in, and I think he will do a good job. They have four offensive line starters back. Vad Lee takes over at quarterback. He could possibly be an upgrade from Tevin Washington. The schedule is pretty favorable as well. They don't have to play Florida State out of the Atlantic Division. I think this team can contend in the ACC Coastal.

**BRADEN GALL:** Give me the Spartans of Michigan State. This team won't be dramatically different than a year ago — stingy on defense and fairly unimaginative on offense. But that is the way Mark Dantonio likes it. Andrew Maxwell can only get better at quarterback, right? The offensive line is in good shape, and the defense will be one of the nation's best once again. The key for Sparty, though, is a very manageable schedule. There is no Ohio State, Wisconsin or Penn State in crossover play this year, giving Michigan State a good shot of at least eight regular-season wins. Pull one upset, against Michigan at home or at Northwestern for example, and the Spartans could easily be a top-25 team.

**DAVID FOX:** My sleeper team is Miami. We picked them to win the ACC Coastal Division, but we don't have them in the top 25. I think they can be a top-25 team, perhaps top 15. Their offense will put up points — last season they ranked 16th in the nation with 6.5 yards per play. Duke Johnson will be one of the most electrifying players in the league, and Stephen Morris is solid at quarterback. The question, of course, is the defense. They were awful last year, but I don't see a repeat of that. This is a young team with a top-10 freshman class that had to play a lot last year. I expect things to go more smoothly on defense and for Miami to be much improved as a team.

**STEVEN LASSAN:** I'll go with Washington. They are coming off their fourth straight 7-6 season, but I think the pieces are in place to be a top-25 team in 2013. The offense is loaded with talent at the skill positions. Keith Price is back at quarterback and is due for a bounce-back season. The offensive line was a big issue last year, but most of the key pieces are back, and this group should be better. The defense also made major progress last year, and seven starters are back. The biggest obstacle is a challenging schedule, but I think they can push Oregon State for third in the division and exceed last year's win total.





Name a team in our preseason top 25 that concerns you the most.

**MITCH LIGHT:** Michigan. We have the Wolverines at No. 14, which scares me just a bit. Devin Gardner will do a solid job at quarterback, but there are questions with every other position group on offense. Michigan will be breaking in three new starters on the offensive line and there is a lack of proven playmakers at wide receiver. They received little production from their tailbacks last season, but the hope is that prized freshman Derrick Green can step in and provide a big boost. The defense, which has been solid under Greg Mattison, must replace some key players, but there shouldn't be too much of a drop-off. This is a good team and a program that is on the verge of becoming elite under Brady Hoke. But the 2013 season could be a bit of a struggle. It wouldn't surprise me if Michigan went 5-3 or even 4-4 in the Big Ten.

**DAVID FOX:** I don't think Texas A&M will fall off of a cliff, but there are legitimate reasons to wonder if the Aggies can keep up this 10-win, 11-win pace. SEC defenses have now had a year to plan and prepare for Kevin Sumlin's offense and Johnny Manziel. It's going to be incredibly difficult to match last year's record-breaking production, especially without Luke Joeckel at

**BRADEN GALL:** I will go with Oklahoma State. Road trips to Big 12 outposts like Ames, Morgantown and Lubbock, as well as a trip to Texas, concern me. They also have a tough game to start the season against Mississippi State. Oklahoma State doesn't really have a quarterback. You've got some good players there, but no proven commodity at the position. There are some holes to fill on the offensive and defensive lines. I don't like the Big 12 this year, and I think Oklahoma State is a risky pick in the top 20.

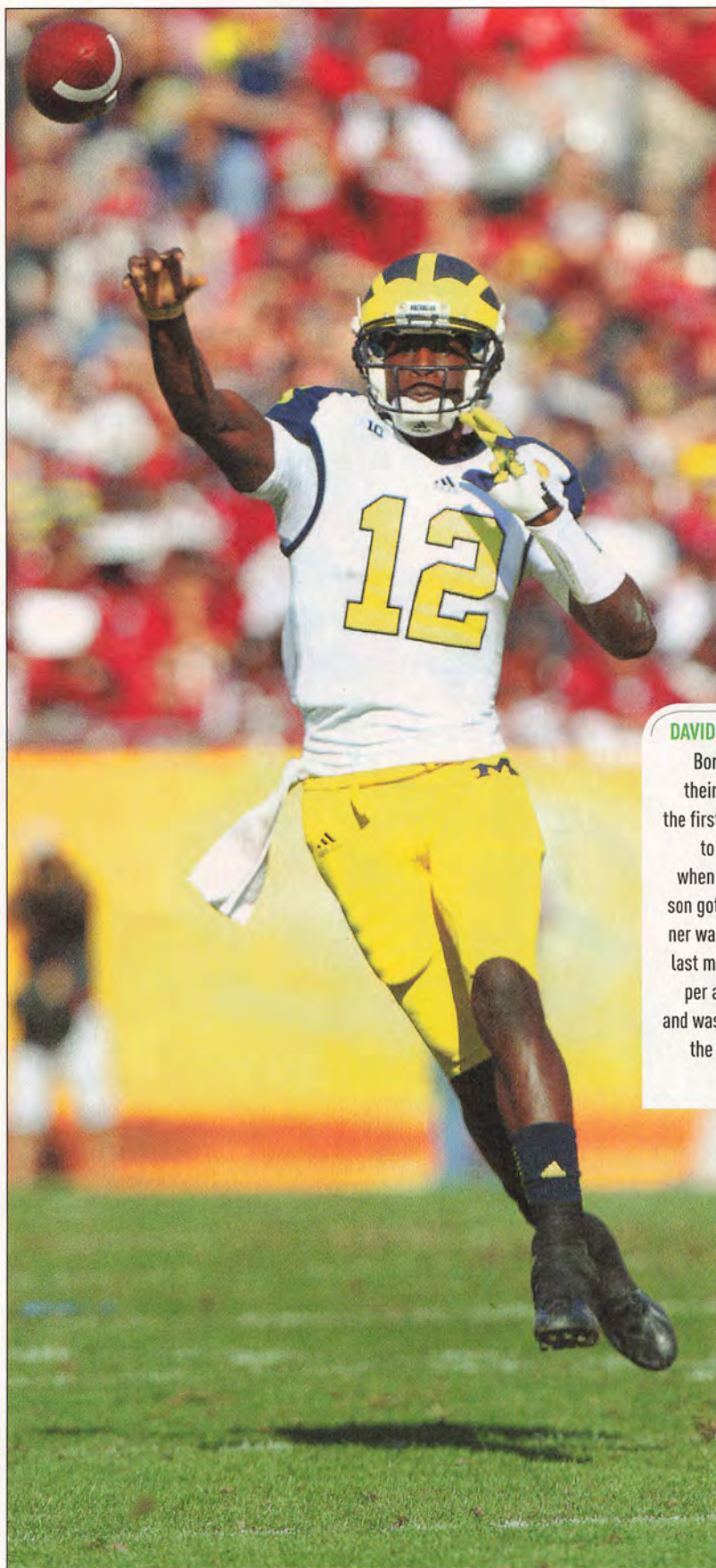


left tackle. That defense was underrated last year, too. Damontre Moore is a huge loss. It's going to be tough for the defense to be as good, which could make it hard for Texas A&M to live up to its top-10 billing.

**STEVEN LASSAN:** Considering the preseason expectations surrounding LSU last year, it's fair to say that its 10-3 record was a slight disappointment. And now, the Tigers return only 10 starters and must deal with two rising programs in the SEC West in Texas A&M and Ole Miss. The defense returns only three starters and must replace six key players on the defensive line, its top linebacker and its two best players in the secondary. The offense has been an issue for the last couple of years. They have a good running back in Jeremy Hill, but the quarterback, Zach Mettenberger, needs to take the next step. The schedule is also tough. They play TCU, Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Texas A&M. That will make it difficult for LSU to stay in the top 15 this year.

Lee: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Oklahoma State: Tim Umphrey





Name a player you expect to have a breakthrough season.

**MITCH LIGHT:** Stefon Diggs, the wide receiver from Maryland. He was a big recruit for Randy Edsall and that staff. He did well as a freshman, catching 54 passes for 848 yards — and that was on a team that ended up playing a linebacker at the quarterback position. He was very good in the return game, and he even did some damage on the ground on limited carries. If they can get better play at quarterback — which they should — Diggs could be an All-America-type player.

**BRADEN GALL:** Shaq Thompson, the Washington Huskies' safety-turned-linebacker. If you follow recruiting, you know all about this guy. He was a superstar prospect. He was very solid in his first season in Seattle. He has gained some weight, and he is moving into the box to get around the football a lot more. They've got a good defensive coaching staff, and I think they will put Thompson in the right spots. He will be a superstar by the end of the season.

**DAVID FOX:** Devin Gardner of Michigan. Brady Hoke and Al Borges didn't inherit the type of players they need to run their system when they arrived at Michigan. They adapted the first two years with Denard Robinson, but that is starting to change. We saw flashes of potential late last season when Gardner became a full-time quarterback after Robinson got hurt and then moved to receiver. In November, Gardner was one of the better quarterbacks in the Big Ten. In the last month of the regular season, he led the league in yards per attempt, tied for the league lead in touchdown passes and was third in yards passing. With a full year to prepare as the starter, plus a solid offensive line returning, he could be an all-conference quarterback in 2013.

**STEVEN LASSAN:** I like Michael Brewer, the quarterback at Texas Tech. With Kliff Kingsbury taking over at his alma mater and calling the plays, I believe Brewer will have a breakout year. He was coached in high school by current Clemson offensive coordinator Chad Morris. He is a good fit in Kingsbury's offense and was impressive in limited action last season. Kingsbury has coordinated some of the nation's top offenses at Houston and Texas A&M and should help Brewer rank among the Big 12's top quarterbacks this season.

Gardner: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Martinez: Tom DiPace; Brown: Ric Fogel



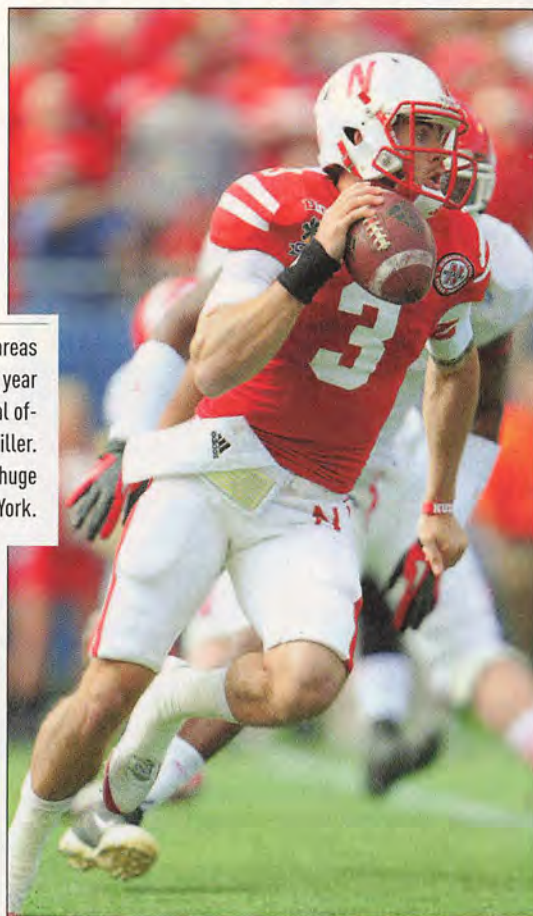
Who is a dark horse Heisman Trophy candidate?

**MITCH LIGHT:** I will go with Venric Mark, the running back at Northwestern. He had a great year last year — basically out of nowhere. He was a non-factor in the offense during his first two years but had 1,300-plus yards and averaged over six yards per carry as a junior. He had two punt return touchdowns as well. He is one of the fastest guys at his position in the country. And I think Northwestern will be very good on offense this season, which will give Mark a lot of opportunities to shine. If the Wildcats can solidify the offensive line — the only potential weakness on offense — Mark will have a huge season.

**BRADEN GALL:** Nebraska quarterback Taylor Martinez. He has progressed in key areas each season he has been a starter. This will be his fourth year under center. And last year he was efficient with the football — he led the Big Ten in passing efficiency and total offense. And he did that in the same league with (Ohio State quarterback) Braxton Miller. Few players can make the type of plays Martinez makes in the backfield. He will put huge numbers and has a chance to get to New York.

**DAVID FOX:** My pick is Brett Hundley from UCLA. He will show up on a lot of preseason Heisman lists, but it will be in the 'others receiving votes' category. I think he is a legitimate contender. He passed for 3,700 yards as a redshirt freshman and completed at least 70 percent of his passes in six different games. He also rushed for nine touchdowns. He really got better as the season went along — he threw four picks early against Cal on Oct. 6 and threw only four more interceptions the rest of the year. (Tailback) Johnathan Franklin had a great year last season, but Hundley was why UCLA played for a Pac-12 title.

**STEVEN LASSAN:** I like Devin Gardner at Michigan. He came to Michigan as a highly touted prospect and had to wait his turn behind Denard Robinson. Gardner started late last year after Robinson got hurt and had 18 touchdowns over the final five games. Michigan doesn't have a ton of proven receivers, but Gardner should have a big year in his first full season as the starting quarterback.



Which coach has the most pressure on him in 2013?

**MITCH LIGHT:** It has to be Lane Kiffin at USC. Last year was a disappointment for the Trojans. I know they had some injuries, but the team still underachieved. And Kiffin's struggles haven't been limited to the field, either. He's had several transgressions off the field as well. Nothing major, but some of the things he has done have put the program in the news for the wrong reasons. I don't think he needs to win 10 or 11 games to save his job, but USC needs to play well — and maximize its talent — and Kiffin needs to behave.

**BRADEN GALL:** Mack Brown at Texas. The first month of the season could be tricky for the Longhorns. This team is talented enough to win the Big 12, to run away with the Big 12. It's also poorly coached enough to lose four or five games, like we have seen them do the last few years. This is one of the most talented rosters in the entire country, and Mack Brown has lost 15 games in the Big 12 in the last three years, and that is completely unacceptable.

**DAVID FOX:** Kirk Ferentz of Iowa. He hasn't had a winning record in the Big Ten since going to the Orange Bowl four years ago. He's been at Iowa since 1999, and he brought them back to prominence. But they are paying him too much to go 8–5, much less 4–8 on a yearly basis. Look around the Big Ten — Ohio State and Michigan are poised to take charge of the league, Nebraska's in the mix every year, Wisconsin has won three straight titles. Iowa is losing ground in a hurry, and it may be tough for Ferentz to keep pace.

**STEVEN LASSAN:** Mack Brown. Texas is arguably the nation's best job, and the school continues to bring in elite talent every year. But they are just 11–15 in Big 12 play in the last three years. Texas returns most of its key personnel. And there is no clear frontrunner in the Big 12, so they should be able to contend for the league title. Anything less than nine wins would be a major disappointment and could spell the end of Brown's tenure at Texas.



# JOHNNY TALKS FOOTBALL

This time a year ago Johnny Manziel was merely a Texas A&M redshirt freshman backup quarterback hoping to fight his way up the depth chart. Then, "Johnny Football" got on a streak as hot as a Texas summer.

He won A&M's starting quarterback job in August. He broke Archie Manning's SEC single-game total offense record in September. He did it again in October.

In November, he led the Aggies to a 29-24 upset of eventual national champion Alabama. And in December, he became the first freshman Heisman Trophy recipient.

With dazzling style, Manziel rushed for 1,410 yards and passed for 3,706. He led the nation with 5,116 yards of total offense. More important, he led Texas A&M to only its fourth season with at least 11 victories.

Suddenly, Johnny Football was hanging out with actors, rappers and star professional athletes like LeBron James. He was seen at the Super Bowl, at the NBA All-Star Game, at concerts and on "The Tonight Show."

Manziel attained national celebrity, but can he win a national championship? Texas A&M hasn't won a national title since 1939, but Aggies everywhere are optimistic this is the year that drought will end.

Maybe this time next year Manziel will be known as "Johnny Crystal Football."

Manziel's offseason was as eventful as the 2012 season, and his exploits have often made national news. We caught up with Manziel to get his thoughts on his 2012 performance, his sudden fame, the Aggies' national title quest and what his future may hold.

At this point last year, you weren't even projected to be the starting quarterback in 2012. How confident were you that you would win the job?

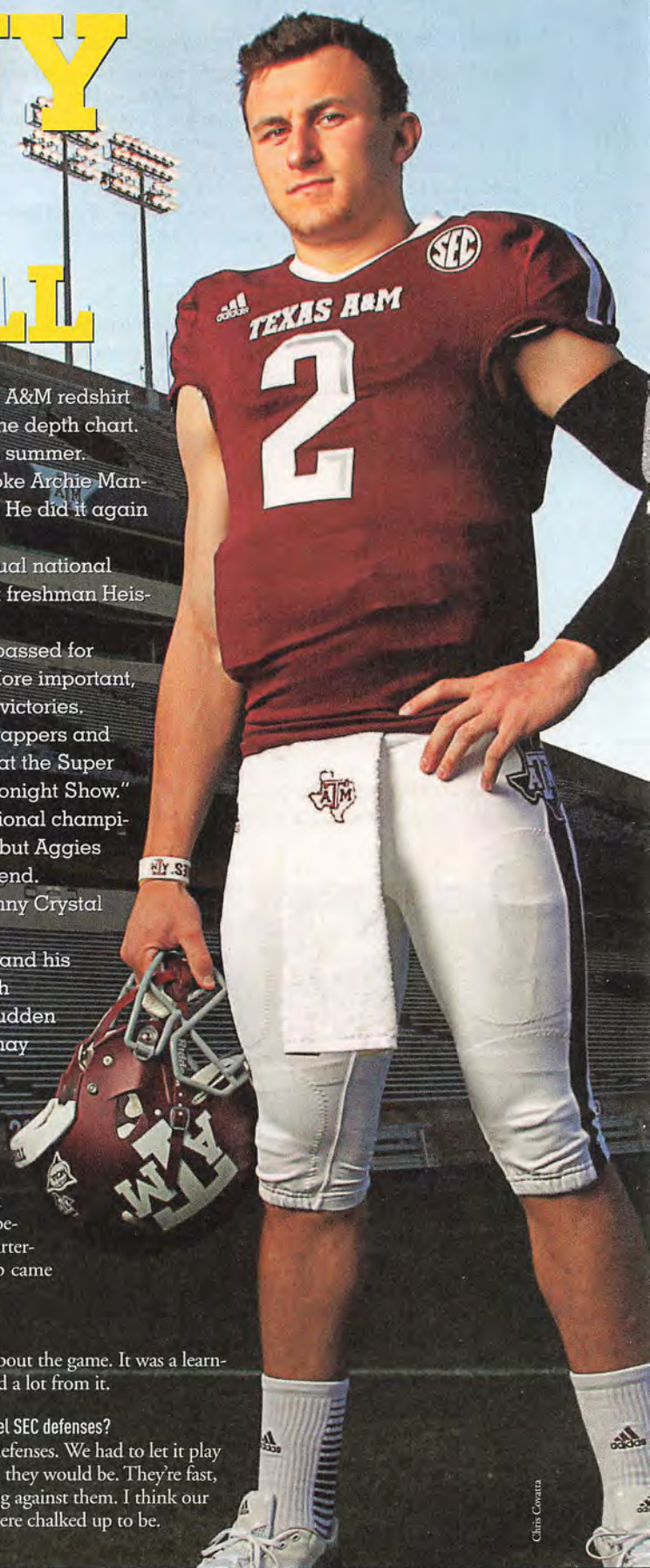
After I came back from California (where he trained with quarterback coach George Whitfield), I had a lot of confidence. I think you have to believe you can take the job. I had to go out and prove what kind of quarterback I was because I didn't show that in the spring. When fall camp came around I had to prove that.

What was it like playing Florida in your first collegiate game?

It was a blur. Looking back at it now, I don't remember that much about the game. It was a learning experience. We had some troubles in that first game, but we learned a lot from it.

You obviously had a ton of success, but what surprised you most about the top-level SEC defenses?

I think we all knew what the media and everybody said about SEC defenses. We had to let it play out. As it turned out, the SEC defenses were everything everybody said they would be. They're fast, physical defenses. I didn't know how our offense would adapt to playing against them. I think our results spoke for themselves, but those defenses were everything they were chalked up to be.



Chris Covatta



**How tough will it be to move forward without your former offensive coordinator, Kliff Kingsbury? Will it be different with Clarence McKinney as offensive coordinator and Jake Spavital as your quarterbacks coach?**

I think we'll be all right. Coach Kingsbury was a big part of what we did last year, but Coach (Kevin) Sumlin did a good job with Coach McKinney and bringing in Coach Spav. Coach Sumlin got us this far. He's put us in the best situation with the coaches. We're in good hands.

**Everything you do now seems to be news. Do you enjoy being a celebrity?**

It's all right, I guess. Every little thing, whatever it is, makes news for whatever reason. I'm just adjusting to that and trying to learn from the mistakes I've made.

**Your family trademarked "Johnny Football." Yet, some tried to sell T-shirts bearing that name. Your signature is being used on trading cards. The university is selling your jersey. People are obviously trying to make money off your fame, but under NCAA rules, you can't. Do you resent that? Is that fair?**

The rules are the rules and you have to abide by them. It doesn't make any difference if I think it's fair or not. Those are the rules. You just make sure you're always in compliance. You're careful not to do anything to get in any trouble, but at the same time we have to take steps to protect my name.

**If you don't sign autographs for everybody, someone gets upset. But some have sold your autograph. Does that make you hesitant to give fans autographs?**

Even though you can't make everybody happy, you still try regardless. After the Spring Game I tried to stay and sign autographs whether it was for 30 minutes or an hour. It doesn't bother me. It comes with the territory when you win the Heisman Trophy. That's part of the deal. I'm OK with it.

**The NCAA says that athletes should be like "normal" students as much as possible. You've been criticized for doing a lot of things that "normal" students do. Is there a double standard?**

I don't know about the word "normal." When I try to use it, I get reamed for it. I'm not allowed to use the word "normal."

**In January, Texas A&M athletic director Eric Hyman and Sumlin met with you and your family after photos surfaced of you out on the town in Dallas. You had also posted photos to Twitter of yourself holding cash at a casino in Oklahoma. What was their message?**

That meeting was blown really way out of proportion. It wasn't a "come to Jesus" meeting. I wasn't doing anything wrong. My family and I sat down with Coach Sumlin to discuss every aspect of academics and compliance. My family had never experienced this before and we wanted everybody to be on the same page. That's all it was.

**As a Heisman Trophy recipient, should you be more careful about what you do because of photos that may appear on social media?**

For sure. There are those days I slip up and do stuff. I have to watch that more. I definitely have to be more careful.

**Is it a primary goal to become the second two-time Heisman winner?**

I really don't think about it. People bring it up and want to talk about it. I'm more worried about team goals ... trying to win the national championship and taking Texas A&M

to a place it's never been before. I'm more focused on that than I am on winning a Heisman. Winning games and doing great things team-wise will bring the individual things.

**Can you get better? How?**

There is always room to improve when I go out there in every game. Hopefully, the game will slow down for me. And it is slowing down for me. I feel like it is. There is room for improvement with mechanics and in knowing coverages.

**Texas A&M hasn't won a national championship since 1939. Will this team end that drought?**

I want to think we have a team that can do good things. I know we had a great recruiting class. We have a lot of great players. We have a team that has a chance to be very, very good.

**Texas A&M lost three starting receivers and two offensive linemen, including Outland Trophy winner Luke Joeckel. How can the offense be as good?**

Again, I feel like we did a great job in recruiting. We have guys that are ready to step up and are ready to play. With the way Coach (Mike) Sherman recruited and the way Coach Sumlin has recruited the offensive line, we're solid in that department. Receivers, too. Coach Sumlin has done a good job bringing in receivers and filling those gaps.

**Texas A&M fans are already looking forward to that Sept. 14 game against Alabama. Are you?**

No. You can't. There are two games before that. We have to take care of business. When that (Alabama) game comes up on the schedule, we'll be ready. But you make sure you don't take any game for granted. We didn't look ahead to Alabama and circle it on our schedule last year. We'll take it just like any other game. But there may be a few thousand more people there.

**You've indicated that you'd consider the NFL Draft after this season. What would be the factors in making your ultimate decision to go pro or stay at A&M?**

If I'm ready or not to take the step to the next level. I'll talk with my family and coaches. I'll look at where I'm at in life and where I'm at on the football field. That will all factor in. It would be foolish to say you wouldn't even consider it if you have that chance.

**Will you go pro if A&M wins the national title?**

I don't know. It would be a good problem to have if you already have a Heisman and a national championship in hand. Hopefully, we'll have to cross that bridge. We'll see.





# ATHLON SPORTS<sup>™</sup> PRESEASON TOP

# 25

Stand up, everyone. Clap your hands. Stomp your feet. Scream until your tonsils fall out — if you still have 'em. This is the last year for the BCS. The sporting world's vilest scourge will disappear after this season, and a four-team playoff takes its place. We know the new system won't be perfect, but it's sure better than what we have. Pay close attention, folks, because you might not see anything in sports so ridiculous again.

On the field, of course, the season belongs to the SEC. Alabama will win it all. And if the Tide somehow stumble, then four or five teams in the conference have enough to step into the breach. That's just how it goes these days. Every other conference is just playing for second place.

## 1 ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

Okay, so why in the world wouldn't the Crimson Tide win it all again? We know the national champion is coming from the SEC. That's how it has been for the past seven years, and it just doesn't look like it's Kentucky's turn yet. It may be a lot to ask Bama to win it all for the third year in a row, but look at all that talent in Tuscaloosa and try to tell us it isn't better than what's on every other campus in the country.

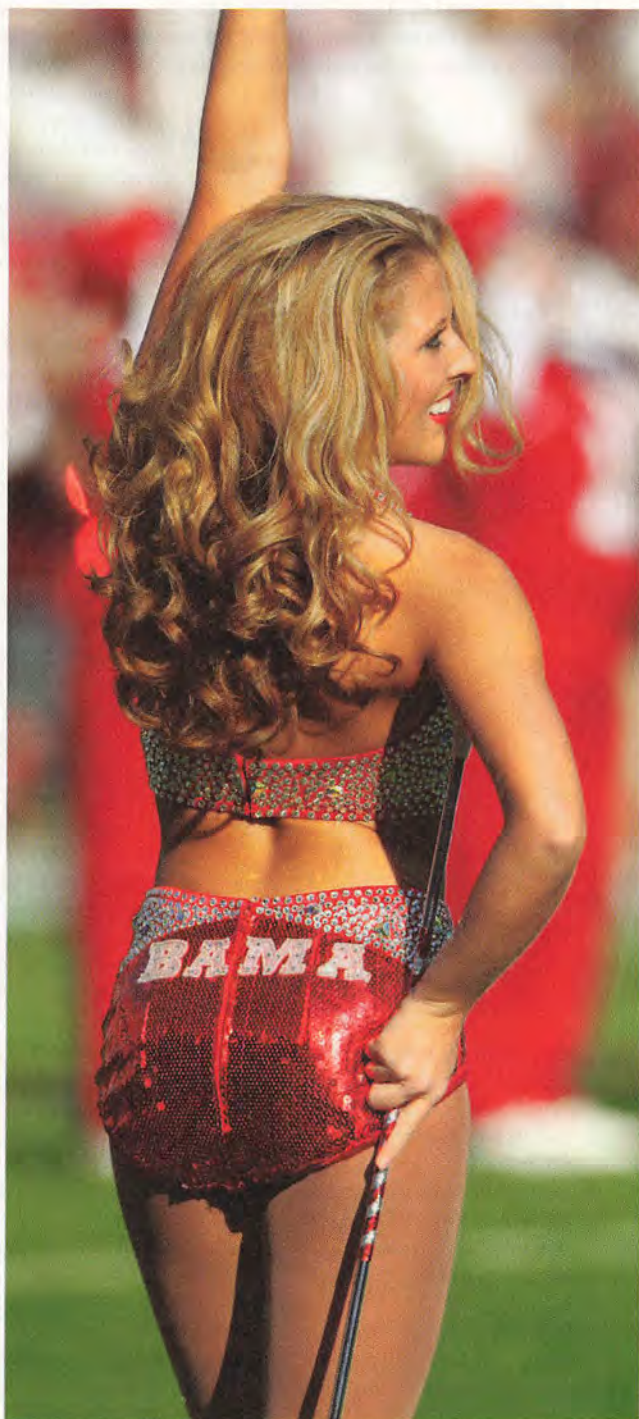
The fact is, Nick Saban has it rolling like no one else has in decades. He and his staff have one of the nation's best recruiting bases, and they mine it like few others can. You don't find too many Alabama assistants spending their down time on the golf course or taking hot yoga classes. Nope, they're out looking for the next AJ McCarron, T.J. Yeldon or C.J. Mosley. (They recruit guys with full first names, too.)

There's a reason you don't hear Saban complaining too much when his top players leave campus early for the NFL. There's always someone else in the pipeline. And by fostering a sense of daily competition that lets even the most decorated All-American know there's someone coming up behind him — and fast — Saban creates a culture in which excellence is not merely expected, it's often not enough.

But the Crimson Tide aren't No. 1 simply because they have won three of the last four titles. There is a lot of proven talent back, and it's enough to make Alabama practically impervious to any kind of sustained drop-off. It begins with McCarron, the quarterback who spent part of January better known for his girlfriend (thanks, Brent) than for his role in one of the most amazing runs in recent college history. Expect Heisman talk to surround the senior, who threw 30 TD passes against just three interceptions last season. He'll get ground support from Yeldon, who rushed for 1,108 yards and 12 TDs as a freshman. But Yeldon had better look out, because the Tide landed four top-10 running back prospects, all of whom think they're better than he is.

About the only potential trouble spot on offense is up front, where three stalwarts must be replaced. And though there is a chance the replacements could stagger, since when has that been a problem for Alabama?

Mosley leads the Tide's signature unit, and he is on a mission to convince Saban he's an every-down linebacker. Junior outside backer Adrian Hubbard is a force of nature, and you have to love safety Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, as much for his five interceptions in 2012 as for his great name. Except that none of the Tide's opponents will be laughing.



Tim Clark/Athlon Sports



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## 2 OHIO STATE BUCKEYES



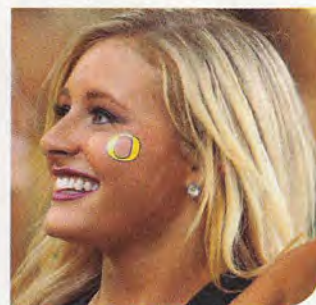
Urban Meyer's first year in Columbus ended with 12-0 perfection, and even better things should lie ahead. Meyer intends to run the Buckeye program as if it were part of a new SEC Northern Division, and he is looking for as much speed and athletic ability on the recruiting circuit as he can find, the better with which to whip the Big Boys, not just the Big Ten.

The kids won't be completely ready for full-time action for a little while, but talent still abounds. Begin with junior quarterback Braxton Miller, who had a fine year in 2012 and could be ready for Heisman contention this season. He'll work behind an experienced, rugged line, hand the ball to Carlos Hyde and throw to Corey Brown and speedy Devin Smith. There could be some trouble along the D-line, where all four '12 starters are gone, but junior linebacker Ryan Shazier is a standout, and any quarterback testing corner Bradley Roby should see a specialist.

## 3 OREGON DUCKS

Don't fret, Duck World. Even though Chip Kelly has flown to the NFL, Oregon will still wear ridiculous uniforms, bathe in the torrents of Nike cash and score points — lots of points. New head coach Mark Helfrich understands how to keep the accelerator stuck to the floor, and in sophomore quarterback Marcus Mariota, he has the perfect triggerman for the bullet train offense. De'Anthony Thomas moves to the forefront of the backfield contingent, and it's even money that no defender will lay a hand on him this year.

Okay, so the defense has to replace four starters, but that usually doesn't matter. The Ducks are all about tempo, scoring points and, well, scoring more points. Even though the rest of the Pac-12 is showing signs of catching up — beyond Stanford and USC, of course — the Ducks are still at the top of the charts, Kelly or no Kelly. So, expect another onslaught.



## 4 GEORGIA BULLDOGS



Remember when everybody wanted to fire Mark Richt? Well, his Bulldogs were one play away from the SEC title last year, and they have enough firepower to make the league's East Division bow down this year. They might just catch one of the West bullies with a pocket full of flash in Atlanta this December.

Quarterback Aaron Murray is a mighty fine passer, and when Richt gets tired of tossing it around, he can pound defenses with the "Gurshall" backfield duo of Todd Gurley and Keith Marshall, who will work behind an experienced line and combined for 2,144 yards and 25 TDs last year. Of course, there is the problem of the back seven of Todd Grantham's defense, which was devastated by graduation and early exits. Linebacker Amarlo Herrera is a standout, and there is enough young talent behind him to give UGA fans hope that this is the year for the Big Breakthrough.

## 5 SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

It wouldn't matter whether Steve Spurrier were walking through campus visiting the fraternities in search of players to fill out his roster. It wouldn't matter if the only returning people on the South Carolina depth chart were the backup punter and a student trainer.

If Jadeveon Clowney is back, everything is just fine.

The junior end, who made a nation gasp when it thought the hit he put on poor Vincent Smith had actually taken the Michigan running back's head off, returns to pillage opponents and create general mayhem on Saturdays throughout the college football world. Some thought Clowney would petition the NFL for early entry. Others thought he would join Seal Team 6 — as an instructor. Instead, he'll anchor the Gamecock defense.

The rest of the team is kind of young, except at quarterback where Connor Shaw and bowl hero Dylan Thompson return. Carolina is talented and tested. And it has Clowney. All is good.



Ohio State: Joe Robbins; Oregon: Craig Mitchell/der  
Georgia: Bruce Schwartzman; South Carolina: Tim Clark/Adrian Sports



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## 6 CLEMSON TIGERS



The Tigers had better enjoy 2013 because if the offense blows up again, coordinator Chad Morris will be interviewing for every open job in the country come December. The return of quarterback Tajh Boyd is a perfect starting point for the crackling attack, and if receiver Sammy Watkins can stay out of trouble, those two could form the nation's most dynamic duo.

The O-line is experienced and rugged, and the defense returns 10 players who started at least five games in 2012. Defensive coordinator Brent Venables had the unit playing well at the end of last year, and his second edition should be fast and productive. Of course, we have to remember that this is Clemson we're talking about, and everything could fall apart in Week 1 when Georgia visits or in late November at South Carolina. Everything in between looks pretty darn good. The potential is there. It's time for Clemson to deliver.

## 7 STANFORD CARDINAL

In the go-go Pac-12, where it seems that every team wants to play with eight wide receivers, the Cardinal stand out like a roughneck at a debutantes' ball. Nothing changes on The Farm, no matter how chic it may be to play spread-'em-out. David Shaw's squad will run it and defend it. Eight starters return from a defense that allowed only 17.2 points per game.

Also back is quarterback Kevin Hogan, whose midseason ascension to the starting position keyed the Cardinal's Pac-12 title. He was poised enough last year to engineer a win at Oregon, and he should be even better this time. In case you're wondering, the Ducks come calling Nov. 7. Yes, Stepfan Taylor and his 1,530 rushing yards are gone, but since when doesn't Stanford have tough backs who actually look for contact? Get those mouthguards in, people. Here comes another punch in the face.



## 8 NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH



If your only image of the Irish is their getting trucked by Alabama in the BCS national title game, then think back to the 12 games that preceded the drubbing and remember all of the wins, excitement and the amazing turnaround authored by Coach of the Year Brian Kelly. Sure, ND had its share of close calls last year — like nearly every home game — but good teams make their own breaks.

And the '13 edition will be good again, even without Manti Te'o. Quarterback Everett Golson became a real weapon last year, and few people can block defensive tackle Louis Nix III. Come to think of it, few buffalo could handle him one-on-one. There is a need for someone to step up at running back, and team speed remains an issue, as Alabama showed. Though the schedule has its usual pitfalls, Notre Dame finally has some momentum and should keep rolling.

## 9 TEXAS A&amp;M AGGIES

What an offseason it was for Johnny Football. He cured the common cold, passed the bar exam, dated every Dallas Cowboys cheerleader and wiped reality TV from the face of the earth. Okay, so maybe he didn't do all that, but why not put the Aggie quarterback into a Bunyan-esque category. His 2012 Heisman season was indeed larger than life, and it's time for an encore.

Trouble is, A&M is still in the SEC West, with a couple schools named Alabama and LSU. So, if Manziel and his mates think they get 40 points just for showing up, they had better think again. The Aggies need to find depth at receiver, keep getting better on defense and hope Manziel stays healthy and magical. Texas A&M is loaded at tailback, and receiver Mike Evans is a top-shelf target. Trouble on the other side comes at linebacker, but the Aggies and Manziel are plenty good and ready to take a shot at the title.



Clemson: Wade Payne/Sanford; Notre Dame: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Texas A&M: Chris Covatta



# 10 LOUISVILLE CARDINALS



Raise your hand if you thought the Cardinals were going to boat-race Florida in last year's Sugar Bowl. Liars!

Louisville supporters may have been in short supply before the Gator game, but it's going to be hard finding people thinking 2013 won't be huge in the land of bourbon. The Cardinals have one more season in the American Athletic Conference (née Big East), which ought to be as awful as its name. U of L doesn't play anybody in the non-conference portion that is any good at all, so Charlie Strong's team could well be undefeated once the hitting is done.

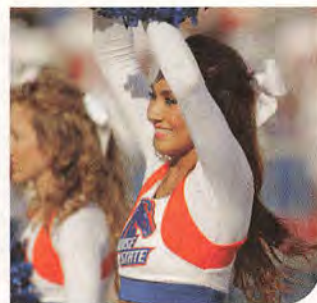
Fourteen starters return, most notably quarterback Teddy Bridgewater, who threw for 3,718 yards and completed 68.5 percent of his passes last year. There are some things to tighten up defensively, but if you're looking for the BCS headache of the year, look no further than the Cards.

# 11 BOISE STATE BRONCOS

Boy, did the Broncos ever stink last year. Two losses? What a disaster 2012 was. Well, at least the carnage is over, and the program can try to move on from the tragic 11–2 campaign.

The best news for BSU football last season — other than the fact that a two-loss season is now considered an off year — is that it won't be playing with the C-USA flotsam in the American Athletic Conference, or whatever the thing is called. The Broncos will remain in the Mountain West, where they belong, and will set about creating some more headaches for BCS voters with a perfect season. Of course, they'll have to get past Washington (in Seattle) in the opener, and traveling to BYU is never a treat. But Boise State is good.

Quarterback Joe Southwick got better and better as 2012 went on, and running back Jay Ajayi is ready to break through. Defensive end Demarcus Lawrence had 9.5 sacks last year, and safety Jeremy loane picked off three passes. The bad times are over. Big things lie ahead.



# 12 LSU TIGERS



Even though the Tigers had 11 players leave early for the NFL from last year's team, there is no truth to the rumor that LSU is not fielding a team this season. More than likely, those guys took one look at the people coming up behind them and decided they would have better chances of making an NFL roster in 2013 than getting onto the Death Valley field.

That's how it works in Baton Rouge. There's always somebody coming for your job, even if he's only 18 years old. So, Les Miles and his staff will take all those youngsters who saw some time last year, mix in another great recruiting class and some hungry redshirts with the returnees and get after it.

Zach Mettenberger at times looked like a big-time quarterback in his first season as the Tigers' starter, but he is far from a proven commodity. Jeremy Hill leads a stable of quality tailbacks. Only three starters are back on defense, but the people stepping in are good. Don't worry.

# 13 FLORIDA GATORS

The Gators did practice throwing the football last year. It's just that when it came time to toss it around in a game, the results weren't so good. So, UF was bland last year. Tapioca bland. Disney bland. They're going to try to help Jeff Driskel get the ball downfield a little more this year, but don't be surprised if Florida is all about running the ball and playing nasty defense again. That's not the worst formula in the world, but until the Gators can get a little more diverse offensively, they won't be climbing to the top of the SEC.

Then, there's that little matter of the Sugar Bowl. Louisville made the Gators look like an old-fashioned Big Ten team. Coach Will Muschamp would like to chalk the blowout loss up to overconfidence or disinterest, but unless Florida can get the ball downfield a little more, they're going to need the world's nastiest D. UF is good, but not that good, yet.





# 14 MICHIGAN WOLVERINES



Boy, did they ever love Denard Robinson during his four years in Ann Arbor. Bo Schembechler would have loved him, too, because Robinson was a Michigan Man.

Now that Robinson is gone, U-M coach Brady Hoke and offensive coordinator Al Borges can finally run the offense they have wanted to use since they arrived on campus in 2011. Gone is the spread. There's no more read option. Quarterback Devin Gardner will be under center, and the line will be expected to knock opponents' teeth out. A physical offense will help the D, and when it all works properly, Big Ten opponents won't have a chance.

But it's not ready to just hum along yet. Michigan needs both lines to get deeper and more experienced. It's going to rely on some youngsters to get downfield at receiver. Linebacker Jake Ryan's torn ACL hurts. And the secondary isn't ready yet. The Wolverines will look the way Hoke wants them to look, but they not be ready to play like wants for another year or two.

# 15 FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

Every time we get excited about the Seminoles, they do something like go to NC State, blow a 16-point lead and lose a game they shouldn't. So, instead of looking at all the talent, athletic ability and potential that's running around the practice fields in Tallahassee, we're going to get Missouri on the Noles and tell 'em to 'Show us.' Show us they will win all the games they're supposed to win and then bump off Florida in late November, and we'll believe.

A lot is riding on the quarterback position. Dynamic redshirt freshman Jameis Winston — the man who threw a football over the frat house — is in line to succeed EJ Manuel, and Florida State's season could well depend on how well Winston plays. The rest of the roster is loaded. Let's see if it can handle the ACC — every week.



# 16 OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS



With all that T. Boone Pickens dough floating around Stillwater, it's hard to imagine the Cowboys will stay down for too long. That is, if you consider an 8–5 season as “down.” After a 12–1 2011, OSU staggered some last year, but the Pokes have to be considered one of the Big 12's title contenders.

All sorts of firepower returns, beginning with a trio of quarterback. Go ahead and pick one. Wes Lunt, Clint Chelf and J.W. Walsh all had big games last year. Chelf has the edge heading into preseason camp, but stay tuned. The ground game is solid, thanks to Jeremy Smith and Desmond Roland, and all Josh Stewart did last year was catch 101 passes. The linebackers should be stout, and if the secondary and pass rush are up to par, OK State will be looking at a BCS berth. Sure, the Big 12 isn't exactly the SEC, but this is a good team that could be great.

# 17 OKLAHOMA SOONERS

If you're a Sooner fan, and you're looking for a reason why your heroes are ranked below those people from Stillwater, look no further than the defense, where a lot of questions remain. The D-line wasn't very good last year, its stalwarts are almost all gone, and the youngsters are unproven. There are some holes in the secondary, too.

Then there is the curious case of the Belldozer. It sure was fun to watch Blake Bell come in for a few plays a game and bounce some bad guys around, but now he has to take every snap, and he'll have to prove he can throw the ball efficiently. At least the line and the ground game are solid. OU has posted double-digit wins in six of its last seven seasons and 11 of the last 13, but it's been a while since it was in the midst of the national title hunt. Maybe the Belldozer can change that — if the defense complies.



Michigan: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Florida State: Margaret Bowles; Oklahoma State: Tim Umphrey; Oklahoma: Chris Covatta



## 18 TEXAS LONGHORNS



Get the picture? The Big 12 is going to be one heck of a slugfest. The folks in Lone Star country would rather things are like they were when Texas could stomp all comers. But when you have issues at quarterback and a defense that surrendered a million points in 2012, winning big isn't easy.

UT will definitely run the ball well, thanks to a potent backfield paced by sophomore Johnathan Gray. There is depth at receiver, and the O-line should be all right. But the offense won't crackle unless David Ash gets it together for the entire season. The last thing Mack Brown needs is uncertainty at quarterback, so Ash needs to be more consistent. And speaking of unwanted circumstances, Brown could use a big season after three straight single-digit-win campaigns. Sure, he won a national title, but that was back in 2005, practically in the days when Texas ran the wishbone. Practically.

## 19 WISCONSIN BADGERS

Barry Alvarez is still athletic director in Madison, so there is no way the Badgers are going to spread the field and start chucking it around. That's why he hired Gary Andersen to replace Bret Bielema. Andersen may not run it every down, but he's not going to turn Wisconsin into a run-and-shoot team, either.

The Badgers have some talent on the roster, beginning with James White and Melvin Gordon, who could both top 1,000 yards this year. Wideout Jared Abbrederis is a reliable target, and linebacker Chris Borland will tackle the opposing mascot if he gets too close to the field. But Wisconsin needs to find stability under center from among a cast of thousands, and the O-line needs to get stronger — if you can believe that is the condition in Madison. Mostly, Andersen needs to keep pace with Michigan and Ohio State in the Big Ten and keep his boss happy.



## 20 TCU HORNED FROGS



Stop us if you've heard this before: The Horned Frogs are going to be really good on defense this year. The secondary is packed with talent, and sophomore defensive end Devonte Fields is a future pro. Of course, in the wacky, wild Big 12, playing great D every week isn't easy.

So, the offense had better be ready to go. TCU lost six games last year, and a big reason for that was the suspension of quarterback Casey Pachall, who missed nine games due to substance abuse. By the end of spring drills, Pachall was back as the first-team quarterback. More big news came when Waymon James, the halfback who tore his ACL in the season's second week, was also first string. That could mean the offense will be more effective in 2013. It needs to be, because trying to grind it out in the Big 12 is a tough way to go.

## 21 NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS

What in the name of the Blackshirts happened to the Cornhuskers at the end of the 2012 season? Nebraska gave up something like 8,000 points in its final two games (okay, that's hyperbole) and looked like it couldn't stop Wisconsin or Georgia if it used 14 players and Herbie Husker. Maybe coach Bo Pelini has been spending so much time trying to assemble an offense that can function in the 21st century that he forgot about the other side of the ball.

Well, NU should be able to score, especially with Taylor Martinez back under center, Ameer Abdullah (1,137 yards) at the I-back spot, and deep threat Kenny Bell on the outside. But what of the D? It helps that Zaire Anderson is healthy and ready to go big at linebacker. A deep secondary is a plus. But Nebraska must tighten things up, or opponents will treat the Blackshirts like Boy Scouts again.





## 22 FRESNO STATE BULLDOGS



Pay no attention to that ugly bowl loss to SMU in Hawaii. Fresno State's 2012 season was big-time, and this year could be even better. Not bad for a team that just joined the Mountain West Conference last year. The Bulldogs need to find a reliable running back, but the rest of the offense should crackle. Quarterback Derek Carr threw for a Mountain West-record 4,104 yards last year, and all freshman wideout Davante Adams did was catch 102 passes. Left tackle Austin Wentworth is a stud. Free safety Derron Smith picked off six passes, and cornerback Sean Alston snared five.

Life may be changing in the Mountain West, but Fresno fits well, and Tim DeRuyter has the program on an upward trajectory. If the ground game can step up, and the front seven stabilizes, the Sept. 20 showdown with Boise State could well determine league supremacy.

## 23 ARIZONA STATE SUNDEVILS

Wait, did the Sun Devils just score on Navy again? Okay, it just seems like ASU's offense is still piling up the points in their bowl rout of the Mids. But don't be surprised if Todd Graham's attack is even more potent this year, thanks to the return of plenty of talent.

It begins with quarterback Taylor Kelly, who went from an unknown to someone who threw 29 TD passes last year. Running backs Marion Grice and D.J. Foster give the Devils some serious punch on the ground, and though there are no brand names at receiver, the holdovers and JC imports should do just fine tracking down Kelly's aerials.

We all know Graham's teams score, but the defense caused some serious trouble last year, registering 52 sacks and picking off 21 passes. Look out for defensive tackle Will Sutton (23.5 tackles for a loss) and linebacker Carl Bradford (20.5).



## 24 NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS



The rallying cry around Evanston is 5:03. That's how much time Wildcats coach Pat Fitzgerald reckons cost his team an undefeated season in 2012. Northwestern blew three second-half leads last year, and though it isn't going to be perfect this year, its wide-open offense and improving D should keep it in most games and lead to another eight or nine-win season and a bowl berth.

The Cats' two quarterbacks, Kain Colter (the runner) and Trevor Siemian (the passer) give rivals big problems, while running back Venric Mark is as slippery as they come. Northwestern returns four receivers who caught at least 28 balls last year, so points aren't going to be a problem. If the Cats continue their improvement on D — 5.2 fewer points per game in '12 than 2011 — they could sneak away with the Legends title. Fitzgerald spent the spring talking about five minutes from last year. His 2013 focus is 12 games. They should be good ones.

## 25 OREGON STATE BEAVERS

That's right, folks, OSU has gone completely over to the Dark Side. The Beavers have worn Nike duds for a while, but they now look like an orange-and-black version of that place over in Eugene. There's even a new, attack-Beaver logo that the folks in Corvallis hope makes them as cool as their Civil War rivals. That's not going to be easy, since Nike CEO Phil Knight gives just about every spare penny to his alma mater.

The Beavers won't be as good as Oregon, but they had a strong 2012 that they should be able to build upon. If, that is, they fix their two lines. Junior college reinforcements will help the defensive front, while the O-line had better get nastier. Oregon State must decide on a quarterback, too. Is it Sean Mannion or Cody Vaz? Well, who is it? The winner gets to throw to Brandin Cooks and hand off to Storm Woods. And everybody will look a little cooler in the new duds.





# RAAKING THE REST



- |                       |                         |                       |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 26. USC               | 44. Northern Illinois   | 68. Washington State  |
| 27. UCLA              | 45. Texas Tech          | 69. Iowa              |
| 28. Vanderbilt        | 46. Tennessee           | 70. Wake Forest       |
| 29. Miami             | 47. Rutgers             | 71. South Florida     |
| 30. Virginia Tech     | 48. Missouri            | 72. Marshall          |
| 31. Kansas State      | 49. Arkansas            | 73. Duke              |
| 32. Michigan State    | 50. Tulsa               | 74. Ball State        |
| 33. Ole Miss          | 51. UCF                 | 75. Syracuse          |
| 34. Georgia Tech      | 52. Pittsburgh          | 76. Nevada            |
| 35. Cincinnati        | 53. Maryland            | 77. East Carolina     |
| 36. Baylor            | 54. NC State            | 78. Purdue            |
| 37. Washington        | 55. California          | 79. Toledo            |
| 38. North Carolina    | 56. West Virginia       | 80. ULM               |
| 39. Penn State        | 57. Iowa State          | 81. Rice              |
| 40. Arizona           | 58. Utah                | 82. Air Force         |
| 41. Mississippi State | 59. Indiana             | 83. UConn             |
| 42. Auburn            | 60. Utah State          | 84. Boston College    |
| 43. BYU               | 61. Minnesota           | 85. Colorado          |
|                       | 62. Virginia            | 86. Illinois          |
|                       | 63. San Jose State      | 87. Bowling Green     |
|                       | 64. San Diego State     | 88. Kansas            |
|                       | 65. Kentucky            | 89. Ohio              |
|                       | 66. Louisiana-Lafayette | 90. Louisiana Tech    |
|                       | 67. Navy                | 91. Western Kentucky  |
|                       |                         | 92. Houston           |
|                       |                         | 93. Wyoming           |
|                       |                         | 94. SMU               |
|                       |                         | 95. Colorado State    |
|                       |                         | 96. Memphis           |
|                       |                         | 97. Temple            |
|                       |                         | 98. MTSU              |
|                       |                         | 99. UTEP              |
|                       |                         | 100. New Mexico       |
|                       |                         | 101. Kent State       |
|                       |                         | 102. Western Michigan |
|                       |                         | 103. Buffalo          |
|                       |                         | 104. UNLV             |
|                       |                         | 105. Arkansas State   |
|                       |                         | 106. Troy             |
|                       |                         | 107. UAB              |
|                       |                         | 108. Southern Miss    |
|                       |                         | 109. Tulane           |
|                       |                         | 110. North Texas      |
|                       |                         | 111. Central Michigan |
|                       |                         | 112. Miami (Ohio)     |
|                       |                         | 113. Army             |
|                       |                         | 114. Akron            |
|                       |                         | 115. Texas State      |
|                       |                         | 116. FAU              |
|                       |                         | 117. South Alabama    |
|                       |                         | 118. FIU              |
|                       |                         | 119. Hawaii           |
|                       |                         | 120. Eastern Michigan |
|                       |                         | 121. UTSA             |
|                       |                         | 122. New Mexico State |
|                       |                         | 123. Idaho            |
|                       |                         | 124. UMass            |
|                       |                         | 125. Georgia State    |





# CONFERENCE PREDICTIONS

Records are projections for the 2013 season: overall and conference

## ACC

### Atlantic Division

1. Clemson 12-1, 8-0
2. Florida State 10-2, 7-1
3. Maryland 7-5, 4-4
4. NC State 7-5, 3-5
5. Wake Forest 6-6, 3-5
6. Syracuse 4-8, 2-6
7. Boston College 4-8, 1-7

### Coastal Division

1. Miami 9-4, 6-2
2. Virginia Tech 8-4, 5-3
3. Georgia Tech 8-4, 5-3
4. North Carolina 8-4, 5-3
5. Pittsburgh 6-6, 3-5
6. Virginia 4-8, 2-6
7. Duke 5-7, 2-6

## AMERICAN

1. Louisville 11-1, 7-1
2. Cincinnati 9-3, 6-2
3. Rutgers 7-5, 5-3
4. UCF 7-5, 5-3
5. South Florida 7-5, 5-3
6. UConn 5-7, 3-5
7. Houston 5-7, 3-5
8. SMU 4-8, 3-5
9. Memphis 4-8, 2-6
10. Temple 4-8, 1-7

## BIG 12

1. Oklahoma State 10-2, 7-2
2. Oklahoma 9-3, 7-2
3. Texas 9-3, 6-3
4. TCU 8-4, 6-3
5. Kansas State 8-4, 5-4
6. Baylor 8-4, 5-4
7. Texas Tech 7-5, 4-5
8. West Virginia 6-6, 3-6
9. Iowa State 5-7, 2-7
10. Kansas 3-9, 0-9

## BIG TEN

### Leaders

1. Ohio State 13-0, 8-0
2. Wisconsin 9-3, 6-2
3. Penn State 8-4, 4-4
4. Indiana 6-6, 3-5
5. Purdue 4-8, 2-6
6. Illinois 4-8, 1-7

### Legends

1. Michigan 10-3, 6-2
2. Nebraska 9-3, 6-2
3. Northwestern 9-3, 5-3
4. Michigan State 7-5, 4-4
5. Minnesota 6-6, 2-6
6. Iowa 4-8, 1-7

## CONFERENCE USA

### East

1. Marshall 8-5, 6-2
2. East Carolina 7-5, 6-2
3. Middle Tennessee 7-5, 5-3
4. UAB 5-7, 4-4
5. Southern Miss 5-7, 4-4
6. FAU 3-9, 2-6
7. FIU 2-10, 1-7

### West

1. Tulsa 10-3, 7-1
2. Rice 8-4, 6-2
3. Louisiana Tech 7-5, 6-2
4. UTEP 5-7, 4-4
5. Tulane 4-8, 2-6
6. North Texas 3-9, 2-6
7. UTSA 1-11, 1-7

## INDEPENDENTS

1. Notre Dame 10-2
2. BYU 7-5
3. Navy 7-5
4. Army 3-9
5. New Mexico State 2-10
6. Idaho 1-11

## MAC

### East

1. Bowling Green 8-5, 7-1
2. Ohio 9-3, 6-2
3. Kent State 6-6, 4-4
4. Buffalo 5-7, 4-4
5. Miami (Ohio) 4-8, 4-4
6. Akron 2-10, 1-7
7. UMass 1-11, 0-8

### West

1. Northern Illinois 10-3, 7-1
2. Ball State 9-3, 6-2
3. Toledo 8-4, 6-2
4. Western Michigan 6-6, 5-3
5. Central Michigan 3-9, 2-6
6. Eastern Michigan 1-11, 0-8

## MOUNTAIN WEST

### Mountain

1. Boise State 12-1, 8-0
2. Utah State 7-5, 6-2
3. Air Force 6-6, 4-4
4. Wyoming 7-5, 4-4
5. Colorado State 5-8, 3-5
6. New Mexico 4-8, 1-7

### West

1. Fresno State 10-3, 6-2
2. San Jose State 7-5, 5-3
3. San Diego State 7-5, 5-3
4. Nevada 6-6, 5-3
5. UNLV 3-9, 1-7
6. Hawaii 1-11, 0-8

## PAC-12

### North

1. Oregon 12-1, 8-1
2. Stanford 10-2, 7-2
3. Oregon State 8-4, 5-4
4. Washington 7-5, 4-5
5. California 4-8, 3-6
6. Washington State 4-8, 2-7

### South

1. Arizona State 8-5, 6-3
2. USC 9-4, 6-3
3. UCLA 8-4, 5-4
4. Arizona 7-5, 4-5
5. Utah 5-7, 3-6
6. Colorado 3-9, 1-8

## SEC

### East

1. Georgia 10-3, 7-1
2. South Carolina 10-2, 6-2
3. Florida 9-3, 5-3
4. Vanderbilt 8-4, 4-4
5. Tennessee 6-6, 3-5
6. Missouri 5-7, 1-7
7. Kentucky 4-8, 1-7

### West

1. Alabama 13-0, 8-0
2. Texas A&M 10-2, 6-2
3. LSU 9-3, 5-3
4. Ole Miss 7-5, 4-4
5. Mississippi State 6-6, 3-5
6. Auburn 6-6, 2-6
7. Arkansas 5-7, 1-7

## SUN BELT

1. Louisiana-Lafayette 9-3, 6-1
2. ULM 7-5, 5-2
3. Western Kentucky 7-5, 5-2
4. Arkansas State 6-6, 4-3
5. Troy 6-6, 4-3
6. Texas State 4-8, 2-5
7. South Alabama 3-9, 2-5
8. Georgia State 1-11, 0-7



# 2013 BOWL PROJECTIONS

## BCS BOWLS

**Rose** // Michigan vs. Oregon

**Fiesta** // Oklahoma State vs. Boise State

**Sugar** // Georgia vs. Louisville

**Orange** // Clemson vs. Notre Dame

**National Title** // Alabama vs. Ohio State



New Mexico  
Pac-12 vs. MWC  
**Washington vs. Air Force**

Famous Idaho Potato  
MWC vs. MAC  
**Nevada vs. Bowling Green**

Poinsettia  
Army vs. MWC  
**Arizona\* vs. San Diego State**

Beef 'O' Brady's  
American vs. C-USA  
**Pittsburgh\* vs. Louisiana Tech**

New Orleans  
Sun Belt vs. C-USA  
**UL-Lafayette vs. Middle Tennessee**

Las Vegas  
Pac-12 vs. MWC  
**Oregon State vs. Fresno State**

Hawaii  
MWC vs. C-USA  
**San Jose State vs. East Carolina**

Little Caesars Pizza  
MAC vs. Big Ten  
**Northern Illinois vs. Minnesota**

Belk  
ACC vs. American  
**North Carolina vs. South Florida**

Military  
C-USA vs. ACC  
**Marshall vs. Maryland**

Holiday  
Pac-12 vs. Big 12  
**Arizona State vs. Kansas State**

AdvoCare V100  
ACC vs. SEC  
**NC State vs. Auburn**

Russell Athletic  
American vs. ACC  
**Cincinnati vs. Miami (Fla.)**

Meineke Car Care of Texas  
Big 12 vs. Big Ten  
**TCU vs. Indiana**

Alamo  
Pac-12 vs. Big 12  
**Stanford vs. Oklahoma**

Armed Forces  
Navy vs. MWC  
**Navy vs. Utah State**

Pinstripe  
American vs. Big 12  
**Rutgers vs. West Virginia**

Music City  
SEC vs. ACC  
**Ole Miss vs. Georgia Tech**

Buffalo Wild Wings  
Big 12 vs. Big Ten  
**Baylor vs. Northwestern**

Sun  
ACC vs. Pac-12  
**Virginia Tech vs. UCLA**

Kraft Fight Hunger  
BYU vs. Pac-12  
**BYU vs. USC**

Liberty  
C-USA vs. SEC  
**Tulsa vs. Tennessee**

Chick-fil-A  
SEC vs. ACC  
**South Carolina vs. Florida State**

Heart of Dallas  
C-USA vs. Big Ten  
**Rice vs. Texas Tech\***

Capital One  
SEC vs. Big Ten  
**Texas A&M vs. Wisconsin**

Outback  
SEC vs. Big Ten  
**Florida vs. Nebraska**

Gator  
SEC vs. Big Ten  
**Vanderbilt vs. Michigan State**

Cotton  
Big 12 vs. SEC  
**Texas vs. LSU**

BBVA Compass  
SEC vs. American  
**Mississippi State vs. UCF\***

GoDaddy.com  
Sun Belt vs. MAC  
**ULM vs. Ball State**

\* According to our projections, Army, the Big Ten and the American will fail to fill their allotted slots.



# 2013 FCS PREVIEW

by Craig Haley

## 1. NORTH DAKOTA STATE (14-1, 7-1 MVC)

A tremendous amount of returning talent powers the Bison as they seek a third straight national title. Cornerback Marcus Williams and linebacker Grant Olson fuel the nation's stingiest defense, and quarterback Brock Jensen will feed 1,000-yard backs Sam Ojuri and John Crockett. A word of caution for Kansas State, which hosts the Bison on Aug. 30: coach Craig Bohl's program is 6-3 against FBS opponents since joining the FCS ranks in 2006.

## 2. MONTANA STATE (11-2, 7-1 Big Sky)

The three-time defending Big Sky champions welcome back linebacker Na'a Moeakiola and defensive end Brad Daly but have several holes to plug on defense. This season, the Bobcats offense has to lead the way, and it can, behind fourth-year starting quarterback DeNarius McGhee, running back Cody Kirk and receiver Tanner Bleskin.

## 3. GEORGIA SOUTHERN (10-4, 6-2 Southern)

The FBS-bound Eagles are ineligible for the Southern Conference title and a playoff berth after three straight semifinal-round appearances. With a solid offensive line and the return of quarterback Jerick McKinnon (1,817 rushing yards, 20 rushing TDs) and fullback Dominique Swope (1,246, 17 total TDs), Georgia Southern's triple option attack could lead the FCS in rushing once again.

## 4. SAM HOUSTON STATE (11-4, 6-1 Southland)

Two straight losses in the national final are motivating coach Willie Fritz's squad. The offense will score in bunches with the return of quarterback Brian Bell, All-America running back Timothy Flanders and multi-dimensional running back/receiver Richard Sincere. Still, the defense is vulnerable after suffering key losses.

## 5. UILLANOVA (8-4, 6-2 CAA)

With the return of 18 starters, veteran coach Andy Talley seemingly has one of his better teams, although a competitive CAA race will test the Wildcats. Quarterback John Robertson, the 2012 Jerry Rice Award winner, has fellow playmakers in running backs Kevin Monangai and Jamal Abdur-Rahman. Plus, the Wildcats are as deep in the trenches as any FCS team.

## 6. APPALACHIAN STATE (8-4, 6-2 Southern)

Scott Satterfield faces the difficult task of replacing legendary coach Jerry Moore as the Mountaineers head toward the FBS. Ineligible for the SoCon title and a playoff berth, they feature a terrific passing game led by quarterback Jamal Jackson and receivers Sean Price, Andrew Peacock and Tony Washington.

## 7. EASTERN WASHINGTON (11-3, 7-1 Big Sky)

The Eagles' schedule is diabolical — road games at Oregon State, Toledo, Sam Houston State, Montana and Cal Poly, and a home date against Montana State. Can they overcome it? Last season's national semifinalists expect to with the likes of quarterback Vernon Adams, linebacker Ronnie Hamlin and cornerback T.J. Lee III.



North Dakota State RB Sam Ojuri

Montana State QB DeNarius McGhee

## 8. TOWSON (7-4, 6-2 CAA)

Junior running back Terrance West has scored 44 touchdowns in his career and is beaming over the return of all five starting offensive linemen. Wisconsin transfer Joe Brennan may take over at quarterback, while the defense will be strong at linebacker and defensive back.

## 9. MONTANA (5-6, 3-5 Big Sky)

The Grizzlies are still coming out of a tumultuous period, including last year's first losing record since 1985. The reinstatement of 2011 starting quarterback Jordan Johnson could settle the position again. The defense is stacked in the front seven with end Zach Wagenmann and senior linebackers Jordan Tripp, Brock Coyle and John Kanongata'a.

## 10. SOUTH DAKOTA STATE (9-4, 6-2 MVC)

Zach Zenner led the FCS in rushing yards (2,044 yards) as a sophomore and is the focal point of the offense. But the Jackrabbits need quarterback Austin Sumner to provide his 2011 level of production instead of last year's drop-off. Sophomore linebacker T.J. Lally is a big-game player already.



### 11. NEW HAMPSHIRE (8-4, 6-2 CAA)

Opponents will be hard-pressed to slow the Wildcats' bid for a 10th straight FCS playoff berth. Nico Steriti, who averaged 6.6 yards per carry as a sophomore, heads a deep running attack, and quarterbacks Sean Goldrich and Andy Vilas always get the ball to junior wide receiver R.J. Harris. New Hampshire must replace linebacker Matt Evans, the school's all-time tackles leader.

### 12. CENTRAL ARKANSAS (9-3, 6-1 Southland)

Dual-threat quarterback Wynrick Smothers (3,103 yards passing, 449 yards rushing in 2012) and defensive end Jonathan Woodard are poised for big seasons for the Bears, who have yet to lose in two seasons on their purple-and-gray turf. Linebacker Justin Heard and cornerback Jestin Love also star for the emerging defense.

### 13. RICHMOND (8-3, 6-2 CAA)

The Spiders enjoyed a five-win improvement in coach Danny Rocco's first season as the head coach, and they may be poised for another leap forward with the return of 18 starters. In a run-heavy CAA, senior wideout Ben Edwards (80 receptions) stands out for quarterback Michael Strauss. Defensive linemen Evan Kelly and Kerry Wynn track down the opposing quarterbacks.

### 14. NORTHERN IOWA (5-6, 4-4 MVC)

The Panthers have softened the schedule after overindulging last season — at Wisconsin and at Iowa in the first three weeks of the season — and they expect to get back on track behind junior running back David Johnson and sophomore quarterback Sawyer Kollmorgen. Placekicker Tyler Sievertsen, who's made 28-of-33 career field goal attempts, likes the comforts of the UNI Dome.

### 15. CAL POLY (9-3, 7-1 Big Sky)

After making a splash in their Big Sky debut, the Mustangs return a veteran squad, but their losses include quarterback Andre Broadous and 1,500-yard back Deonte Williams. Slotback Kristaan Ivory is the new offensive star, and defensive tackle Sullivan Grosz gets into opponents' backfields.

### 16. NORTHERN ARIZONA (8-3, 6-2 Big Sky)

Two season-ending losses — at home vs. Southern Utah and Cal Poly — sabotaged the Lumberjacks, who return 18 starters. Running back Zach Bauman seeks a fourth straight 1,000-yard season, and fellow seniors Anders Battle and Lucky Dozier headline one of the better secondaries in the FCS.

### 17. JAMES MADISON (7-4, 5-3 CAA)

Sophomore quarterback Michael Birdsong is a star in the making, and running back Dae'Quan Scott does a little bit of everything for the Dukes. All-America middle linebacker Stephon Robertson works sideline to sideline, backed by emerging safety Dean Marlowe.

### 18. CHATTANOOGA (6-5, 5-3 Southern)

The Mocs are primed for SoCon title contention with the conference's best defense, featuring 2012 Defensive Player of the Year Davis Tull at end, linebacker Wes Dohard and cornerback Kadeem Wise. Jacob Huesman, son of coach Russ Huesman, has supplanted Terrell Robinson at quarterback.

### 19. WOFFORD (9-4, 6-2 Southern)

With FBS-bound Appalachian State and Georgia Southern ineligible for the SoCon title, the Terriers are the league favorites. They lose standout Eric Breitenstein but now feature fullback Donovan Johnson, who has 1,793 career rushing yards. Linebacker Mike McCrimon and Alvin Scioneaux are rocks on defense.

### 20. EASTERN ILLINOIS (7-5, 6-1 OVC)

Behind his lethal passing attack, first-year coach Dino Babers took the Panthers from worst to first in the Ohio Valley Conference. Quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo and wide receiver Erik Lora, whose 136 receptions set the FCS single-season record, lead the passing game.

### 21. TENNESSEE STATE (8-3, 4-3 OVC)

After beginning last season with seven straight wins, the Tigers need talented junior quarterback Michael German to be their closer. Much of the defense returns, including shutdown cornerback Steven Godbolt III and aptly named linebacker Nick Thrasher, their leading tackler.

### 22. DELAWARE (5-6, 2-6 CAA)

New coach Dave Brock inherits a talented team that features senior tailback Andrew Pierce (3,637 career rushing yards) and, the Blue Hens hope, a healthier Trent Hurley at quarterback. Linebacker Jeff Williams broke in as a premier pass-rusher last season.

### 23. YOUNGSTOWN STATE (7-4, 4-4 MVC)

A tough schedule in November means the Penguins need a fast start as they chase their first playoff appearance since 2006. Quarterback Kurt Hess will air it out to make amends for last season's disappointment.

### 24. ILLINOIS STATE (9-4, 5-3 MVC)

The Redbirds have filled major holes on offense with transfers — quarterback Jared Barnett, from Iowa State, and power running back Collin Keoshian, from Glendale (Calif.) Community College. Premier defensive end Colton Underwood has to lead a defense that also sustained heavy losses.

### 25. THE CITADEL (7-4, 5-3 Southern)

A rare sweep of Appalachian State and Georgia Southern last season could be a prelude for an even better 2013. The Bulldogs' triple option returns quarterbacks Ben Dupree and Aaron Miller, 1,000-yard fullback Darien Robinson and a veteran offensive line.

## FCS ALL-AMERICA TEAM

### OFFENSE

QB	DeNarius McGhee	6-0, 210, Sr.	Montana State
RB	Shakir Bell	5-8, 185, Sr.	Indiana State
RB	Zach Zenner	6-0, 215, Jr.	South Dakota State
WR	Erik Lora	5-10, 181, Sr.	Eastern Illinois
WR	Sean Price	6-5, 210, So.	Appalachian State
TE	A.C. Leonard	6-4, 245, Jr.	Tennessee State
C	Chris Elkins	6-3, 200, Sr.	Youngstown State
G	Gavin Farr	6-3, 290, Sr.	Southern Utah
G	Steven Forgette	6-4, 300, Sr.	Eastern Washington
T	Michael Bamiro	6-8, 345, Sr.	Stony Brook
T	Billy Turner	6-6, 300, Sr.	North Dakota State

### DEFENSE

DE	Davis Tull	6-3, 230, Jr.	Chattanooga
DE	Colton Underwood	6-4, 255, Sr.	Illinois State
DT	Caraun Reid	6-2, 305, Sr.	Princeton
DT	Antoine Lewis	6-2, 290, Sr.	Villanova
LB	Grant Olson	6-0, 223, Sr.	North Dakota State
LB	Stephon Robertson	5-11, 220, Sr.	James Madison
LB	Jordan Tripp	6-4, 244, Sr.	Montana
CB	Steven Godbolt III	6-1, 180, Jr.	Tennessee State
CB	Marcus Williams	5-11, 194, Sr.	North Dakota State
S	Caleb Schaffitzel	6-0, 214, Jr.	Missouri State
S	Jaquiski Tarrt	6-1, 220, Jr.	Samford

### SPECIALISTS

K	Colton Cook	5-8, 177, Sr.	Southern Utah
P	Andy Wilder	6-3, 205, Sr.	Northern Arizona
KR	Fabian Truss	5-9, 190, Sr.	Samford
PR	D'Vonte Graham	5-9, 180, Sr.	North Carolina A&T

### PROJECTED PLAYOFF QUALIFIERS

- » Bethune-Cookman (MEAC champ)
- » Cal Poly (at-large)
- » Central Arkansas (at-large)
- » Chattanooga (Southern champ)
- » Colgate (Patriot champ)
- » Eastern Illinois (Ohio Valley champ)
- » Eastern Washington (at-large)
- » James Madison (at-large)
- » Liberty (Big South champ)
- » Montana State (Big Sky champ)
- » Montana (at-large)
- » New Hampshire (at-large)
- » North Dakota State (Missouri Valley champ)
- » Northern Arizona (at-large)
- » Northern Iowa (at-large)
- » Richmond (at-large)
- » Sam Houston State (Southland champ)
- » San Diego (Pioneer champ)
- » South Dakota State (at-large)
- » Tennessee State (at-large)
- » Towson (at-large)
- » Villanova (CAA champ)
- » Wagner (Northeast champ)
- » Wofford (at-large)



# ALL-AMERICA TEAM

## FIRST TEAM

### OFFENSE

QB	JOHNNY MANZIEL	6-1	200	So.	Texas A&M
RB	Ka'DEEM CAREY	5-10	196	Jr.	Arizona
RB	TODD GURLEY	6-1	218	So.	Georgia
WR	MARQISE LEE	6-0	195	Jr.	USC
WR	SAMMY WATKINS	6-1	205	Jr.	Clemson
TE	AUSTIN SEFERIAN-JENKINS	6-6	266	Jr.	Washington
C	GABE IKARD	6-3	298	Sr.	Oklahoma
G	CYRIL RICHARDSON	6-5	335	Sr.	Baylor
G	DAVID YANKEY	6-5	311	Sr.	Stanford
T	TAYLOR LEWAN	6-8	308	Sr.	Michigan
T	JAKE MATTHEWS	6-5	305	Sr.	Texas A&M
AP	De'ANTHONY THOMAS	5-9	176	Jr.	Oregon

### DEFENSE

DE	JADEVEON CLOWNEY	6-6	272	Jr.	South Carolina
DE	STEPHON TUITT	6-6	303	Jr.	Notre Dame
DT	LOUIS NIX III	6-3	326	Sr.	Notre Dame
DT	WILL SUTTON	6-1	288	Sr.	Arizona State
LB	C.J. MOSLEY	6-2	232	Sr.	Alabama
LB	RYAN SHAZIER	6-2	222	Jr.	Ohio State
LB	KYLE VAN NOY	6-3	235	Sr.	BYU
CB	IFO EKPRE-OLOMU	5-10	190	Jr.	Oregon
CB	BRADLEY ROBY	5-11	193	Jr.	Ohio State
S	HA HA CLINTON-DIX	6-1	208	Jr.	Alabama
S	ED REYNOLDS	6-2	205	Jr.	Stanford

### SPECIALISTS

K	CAIRO SANTOS	5-8	160	Sr.	Tulane
P	KYLE CHRISTY	6-3	193	Jr.	Florida
KR	DUKE JOHNSON	5-9	194	So.	Miami
PR	VENRIC MARK	5-8	175	Sr.	Northwestern

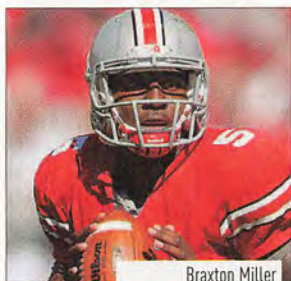


Johnny Manziel

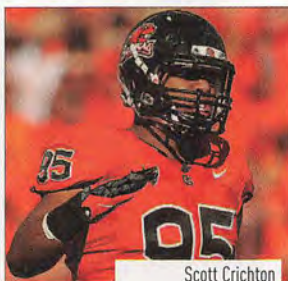
Jadeveon  
Clowney



# ALL-AMERICA TEAM



Braxton Miller



Scott Crichton



Tajh Boyd



Chris Borland

## SECOND TEAM

### OFFENSE

QB	BRAXTON MILLER	6-2	215	Jr.	Ohio State
RB	LACHE SEASTRUNK	5-10	210	Jr.	Baylor
RB	T.J. YELDON	6-2	218	So.	Alabama
WR	AMARI COOPER	6-1	208	Jr.	Alabama
WR	JORDAN MATTHEWS	6-3	205	Sr.	Vanderbilt
TE	ARTHUR LYNCH	6-5	258	Sr.	Georgia
C	TRAVIS SWANSON	6-5	314	Sr.	Arkansas
G	SPENCER LONG	6-4	315	Sr.	Nebraska
G	XAVIER SU'A-FILO	6-3	304	Jr.	UCLA
T	CYRUS KOUANDJIO	6-6	310	Jr.	Alabama
T	ANTONIO RICHARDSON	6-6	332	Jr.	Tennessee
AP	KAIN COLTER	6-0	190	Sr.	Northwestern

### DEFENSE

DE	SCOTT CRICHTON	6-3	260	Jr.	Oregon State
DE	DEVONTE FIELDS	6-4	240	So.	TCU
DT	TIMMY JERNIGAN	6-2	298	Jr.	Florida State
DT	ANTHONY JOHNSON	6-3	304	Jr.	LSU
LB	ANTHONY BARR	6-4	245	Sr.	UCLA
LB	TRENT MURPHY	6-6	261	Sr.	Stanford
LB	SHAYNE SKOV	6-3	244	Sr.	Stanford
CB	AARON COLVIN	6-0	181	Sr.	Oklahoma
CB	JASON VERRETT	5-10	176	Sr.	TCU
S	DION BAILEY	6-0	210	Jr.	USC
S	TY ZIMMERMAN	6-1	204	Sr.	Kansas State

### SPECIALISTS

K	JEFF BUDZIEN	5-11	165	Sr.	Northwestern
P	KIRBY VAN DER CAMP	6-4	211	Sr.	Iowa State
KR	MARQISE LEE	6-0	195	Jr.	USC
PR	MARCUS MURPHY	5-9	185	Jr.	Missouri

## THIRD TEAM

### OFFENSE

QB	TAJH BOYD	6-1	225	Sr.	Clemson
RB	DUKE JOHNSON	5-9	194	So.	Miami
RB	VENRIC MARK	5-8	175	Sr.	Northwestern
WR	DAVANTE ADAMS	6-2	200	So.	Fresno State
WR	MIKE EVANS	6-5	225	So.	Texas A&M
TE	CHRIS COYLE	6-3	222	Sr.	Arizona State
C	HRONISS GRASU	6-3	294	Jr.	Oregon
G	GABE JACKSON	6-4	335	Sr.	Mississippi State
G	ANTHONY STEEN	6-3	309	Sr.	Alabama
T	JAMES HURST	6-7	305	Sr.	North Carolina
T	ZACK MARTIN	6-4	304	Sr.	Notre Dame
AP	DRI ARCHER	5-8	175	Sr.	Kent State

### DEFENSE

DE	MORGAN BRESLIN	6-2	250	Sr.	USC
DE	AARON LYNCH	6-6	244	So.	South Florida
DT	CALVIN BARNETT	6-2	300	Sr.	Oklahoma State
DT	LEONARD WILLIAMS	6-5	270	So.	USC
LB	CHRIS BORLAND	5-11	248	Sr.	Wisconsin
LB	MAX BULLOUGH	6-3	242	Sr.	Michigan State
LB	SHAO THOMPSON	6-2	225	So.	Washington
CB	QUANDRE DIGGS	5-10	200	Jr.	Texas
CB	ANDRE HAL	6-0	184	Sr.	Vanderbilt
S	CRAIG LOSTON	6-2	205	Sr.	LSU
S	HAKEEM SMITH	6-1	187	Sr.	Louisville

### SPECIALISTS

K	CHRIS BOSWELL	6-2	200	Sr.	Rice
P	MIKE SADLER	6-0	185	Jr.	Michigan State
KR	JUSTIN GILBERT	6-0	200	Sr.	Oklahoma State
PR	TRAMAIN THOMPSON	5-8	167	Sr.	Kansas State



# THE 13TH ANNUAL ATHLON AWARDS

Athlon Sports ranks every unit in each conference. A "1" signifies the best unit.

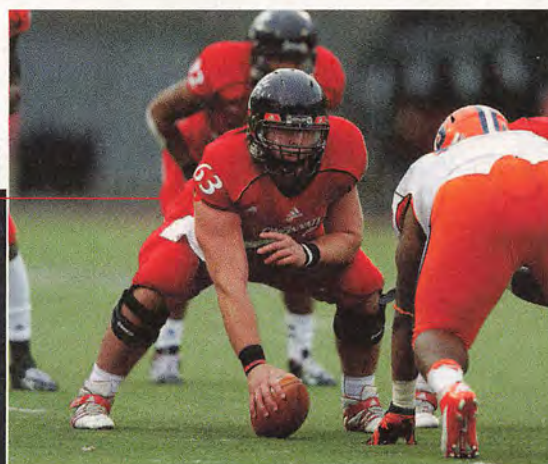
## ATLANTIC COAST

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BOSTON COLLEGE	8	14	8	11	13	6	14
CLEMSON	1	7	2	3	3	2	7
DUKE	10	11	11	6	14	14	13
FLORIDA STATE	6	1	1	2	2	1	1
GEORGIA TECH	7	6	14	4	10	3	6
MARYLAND	12	12	7	10	11	10	11
MIAMI	4	2	3	1	6	7	8
NORTH CAROLINA	2	4	4	5	9	13	5
NC STATE	11	8	6	12	4	12	10
PITTSBURGH	9	13	9	13	5	8	3
SYRACUSE	14	3	12	9	12	5	12
VIRGINIA	13	5	5	7	8	11	4
VIRGINIA TECH	3	10	13	8	1	4	2
WAKE FOREST	5	9	10	14	7	9	9



## AMERICAN

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
CINCINNATI	3	6	7	1	4	1	2
CONNECTICUT	6	2	8	8	6	5	5
HOUSTON	7	1	2	5	10	10	7
LOUISVILLE	1	3	1	4	2	2	1
MEMPHIS	8	7	9	7	5	8	10
RUTGERS	4	5	4	2	1	4	3
SMU	5	8	5	9	9	7	4
SOUTH FLORIDA	9	10	6	6	3	6	9
TEMPLE	10	9	10	10	8	3	8
UCF	2	4	3	3	7	9	6



## BIG 12

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BAYLOR	7	2	6	4	6	1	6
IOWA STATE	10	10	8	6	8	9	5
KANSAS	9	3	10	10	10	8	10
KANSAS STATE	6	7	7	2	9	6	7
OKLAHOMA	3	4	2	1	5	4	3
OKLAHOMA STATE	1	5	1	5	3	2	4
TCU	2	6	5	7	1	7	1
TEXAS	4	1	3	3	2	3	2
TEXAS TECH	5	8	4	9	4	5	8
WEST VIRGINIA	8	9	9	8	7	10	9



ACC: Margaret Bowles; American: Joe Robbins; Big 12: Chris Covatta  
Big 10: Tom Lynn; USA: Marshall SID; Mac: Buffalo SID



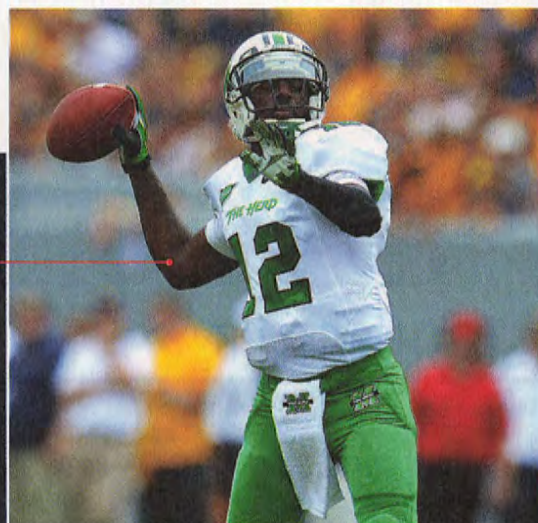
## BIG TEN

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ILLINOIS	10	9	11	12	12	8	12
INDIANA	5	8	1	5	11	12	11
IOWA	12	7	10	9	8	3	9
MICHIGAN	3	6	9	7	5	5	6
MICHIGAN STATE	7	11	5	3	3	①	2
MINNESOTA	9	10	12	10	9	11	8
NEBRASKA	2	3	2	2	7	9	3
NORTHWESTERN	4	4	6	8	6	6	4
OHIO STATE	1	2	4	1	1	4	1
PENN STATE	8	5	3	4	2	7	5
PURDUE	11	12	7	11	10	10	7
WISCONSIN	6	1	8	6	4	2	10



## CONFERENCE USA

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
EAST CAROLINA	2	4	2	1	5	1	7
FAU	14	13	5	13	13	4	9
FIU	7	12	13	14	10	14	8
LOUISIANA TECH	10	2	11	11	2	13	13
MARSHALL	①	7	1	6	3	7	5
MIDDLE TENNESSEE	6	9	10	5	11	6	10
NORTH TEXAS	12	10	12	4	14	3	3
RICE	4	5	7	3	4	8	2
SOUTHERN MISS	13	11	9	12	6	5	4
TULANE	11	8	3	9	8	11	1
TULSA	3	1	4	2	9	2	6
UAB	9	3	8	10	7	9	11
UTEP	5	6	6	7	1	12	12
UTSA	8	14	14	8	12	10	14



## MID-AMERICAN

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
AKRON	9	8	9	11	11	10	12
BALL STATE	2	4	1	5	3	8	7
BOWLING GREEN	5	11	5	3	2	2	1
BUFFALO	11	5	11	7	7	①	4
CENTRAL MICHIGAN	10	6	8	6	9	7	9
EASTERN MICHIGAN	12	9	12	10	12	13	11
KENT STATE	8	1	10	8	1	9	6
MIAMI	7	12	4	12	10	11	10
NO. ILLINOIS	1	7	6	1	4	4	5
OHIO	3	3	7	4	5	3	2
TOLEDO	4	2	2	2	6	5	8
UMASS	13	13	13	13	13	12	13
WESTERN MICHIGAN	6	10	3	9	8	6	3





## MOUNTAIN WEST

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
AIR FORCE	11	7	11	5	7	10	7
BOISE STATE	6	4	3	1	①	6	2
COLORADO STATE	9	3	7	9	12	4	5
FRESNO STATE	1	6	1	6	2	5	1
HAWAII	12	11	10	12	6	8	8
NEVADA	4	12	4	8	5	12	11
NEW MEXICO	10	1	12	3	11	7	12
SAN DIEGO STATE	8	2	8	10	3	1	4
SAN JOSE STATE	2	10	2	4	9	3	6
UNLV	7	5	6	7	8	11	9
UTAH STATE	3	9	9	2	4	2	3
WYOMING	5	8	5	11	10	9	10



## PAC-12

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ARIZONA	8	2	7	6	11	8	5
ARIZONA STATE	3	5	10	7	1	5	4
CALIFORNIA	11	9	8	11	8	9	10
COLORADO	12	10	9	12	12	12	12
OREGON	1	1	3	2	3	6	1
OREGON STATE	6	7	5	3	7	7	3
STANFORD	5	6	12	1	4	1	2
UCLA	2	8	4	5	5	2	8
USC	7	4	①	4	2	3	6
UTAH	10	11	11	8	9	11	11
WASHINGTON	4	3	2	9	6	4	7
WASHINGTON STATE	9	12	6	10	10	10	9



## SOUTHEASTERN

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ALABAMA	2	2	1	4	3	1	2
ARKANSAS	13	14	10	13	4	12	13
AUBURN	14	7	11	12	10	13	10
FLORIDA	8	12	9	6	2	4	1
GEORGIA	3	①	2	3	9	8	8
KENTUCKY	11	13	14	14	11	9	14
LSU	7	5	4	5	5	2	4
MISSISSIPPI STATE	5	4	13	7	8	7	9
MISSOURI	9	10	7	11	14	11	11
OLE MISS	6	8	5	9	7	3	7
SOUTH CAROLINA	4	11	8	10	1	14	5
TENNESSEE	12	6	12	1	12	5	12
TEXAS A&M	1	3	6	2	13	10	6
VANDERBILT	10	9	3	8	6	6	3



## SUN BELT

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ARKANSAS STATE	4	2	3	1	2	4	3
GEORGIA STATE	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
SOUTH ALABAMA	6	6	5	6	5	5	6
TEXAS STATE	7	5	7	7	6	6	5
TROY	3	7	4	5	4	7	4
UL LAFAYETTE	2	3	2	3	3	2	7
ULM	1	4	1	2	1	3	2
WESTERN KENTUCKY	5	①	6	4	7	1	1



Mountain West: Craig Mitchell/Getty; Pac-12: Bruce Schwartzman/SEC; Tim Clark/Action Sports; Sun Belt: Paul Levy; Stanford: AP Photo/ Bill Nichols



# NATIONAL UNIT RANKINGS

## QUARTERBACKS

1. Texas A&M
2. Ohio State
3. Clemson
4. Alabama
5. Oregon
6. Louisville
7. Georgia
8. Nebraska
9. UCLA
10. Fresno State

## RUNNING BACKS

1. Georgia
2. Alabama
3. Texas
4. Oregon
5. Texas A&M
6. Wisconsin
7. Baylor
8. Ohio State
9. Nebraska
10. Arizona

## RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS

1. USC
2. Alabama
3. Georgia
4. Oklahoma State
5. Florida State
6. Clemson
7. Louisville
8. Oklahoma
9. Fresno State
10. Washington



## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

1. Stanford
2. Tennessee
3. Ohio State
4. Oklahoma
5. Kansas State
6. Texas A&M
7. Miami (Fla.)
8. Alabama
9. Cincinnati
10. Florida State

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

1. South Carolina
2. Notre Dame
3. Arizona State
4. Florida
5. USC
6. Virginia Tech
7. Oregon
8. TCU
9. Stanford
10. Ohio State

## LINEBACKERS

1. Stanford
2. Alabama
3. UCLA
4. Michigan State
5. LSU
6. Notre Dame
7. Florida State
8. USC
9. BYU
10. Clemson

## DEFENSIVE BACKS

1. Florida
2. Ohio State
3. Oregon
4. Alabama
5. Stanford
6. TCU
7. Florida State
8. Virginia Tech
9. Michigan State
10. Notre Dame



# TAILGATING

## FANS, FOOD, & FUN



### ATHLON SPORTS' TAILGATING PARTNERS



100% Natural



### Charred Texas Pete® Fiery Sweet Shrimp

#### Ingredients

- 2 lbs. 12-15 ct. jumbo shrimp
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 cup Texas Pete® Fiery Sweet Wing Sauce
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 bunch fresh cilantro



**Preparation:** Season shrimp with extra virgin olive oil, salt and pepper. Refrigerate for up to an hour. Pre-heat the grill to medium high and cook shrimp 2-3 minutes per side. Remove from grill and in a large bowl combine with Texas Pete® Fiery Sweet Sauce and toss thoroughly. Sprinkle with chopped fresh cilantro and serve.

### Texas Pete® Hotter Hot Tailgate Burger

#### Ingredients

- 2 lbs. Ground Beef
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. ground black pepper
- 3 tsp. Texas Pete® Hotter Hot Sauce
- 1 tsp. granulated garlic powder
- 2 tbsp. grated onion



**Preparation:** Incorporate all seasonings thoroughly into ground beef in a large mixing bowl. Let the ground beef sit covered for at least 30 minutes in the refrigerator before forming the patties.

Form patties and grill burgers to desired doneness. Serve on a warm bun with condiments and accompaniments.

**Yield:** 8 – 4 oz. burgers    **Portion (Serving Size):** 1 burger

### Texas Pete® Spicy Cajun Marinade

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup Texas Pete® Original Hot Sauce
- 1/4 cup Cajun seasoning
- 1 tbsp. garlic, fresh, minced
- 1/2 cup olive oil

**Preparation:** Place all ingredients in a large mixing bowl and mix well. Depending upon the meat you are marinating, marinate the meat from 12 to 24 hours in the refrigerator. Tender or small cuts of meat can marinate for 12 hours. Tougher cuts or larger cuts of meat can marinate for up to 24 hours.

When ready, scrape off excess marinade from the meat before cooking.

**Yield:** 1 3/4 cups

**Suggestions:** This marinade can be used for steaks, shrimp, chicken or your favorite meat to grill.



— THE ESSENTIAL TOOLS OF —

# TAILGATING



With the perfect balance of flavor and heat, Texas Pete® Hot Sauce is the winning game plan for grilling, tailgating or dinner. Pick up the complete line of Texas Pete® sauces and go online now for recipes that will make you a tailgating hero.

TEXAS PETE.com



## Chicken Quesadilla

### Ingredients

- 1 tub of Curly's Sauceless Chicken
- 1 packet of taco seasoning
- 4-6 burrito size tortillas
- Shredded mild cheddar, or Monterey Jack cheese
- Finely chopped onion
- Finely chopped green or red pepper



The following are optional: chopped tomatoes, iceberg lettuce, sour cream, salsa, guacamole

**Cook Time:** 20 minutes **Level:** Easy **Yield:** 4-6 Servings

**Preparation:** Put all chicken into a non-stick skillet (break up any large pieces of chicken). Sprinkle in all the taco seasoning and prepare chicken mixture according to directions on taco packet. Using a well-heated skillet with a light coat of vegetable oil, place a tortilla in the skillet and top with chicken, cheese, onion and peppers. Flip the tortilla to a half moon shape. Heat about 15 seconds and flip the tortilla so the other side can get toasted. Slice the tortilla and serve. If so desired, add your favorite toppings.

## Smoked Pork "Slaw on the Bottom" Minis

### Ingredients

- 1 tub of Curly's Famous Pulled Pork BBQ (YUM!)
- Your favorite BBQ sauce
- Your favorite coleslaw (place on the bottom)
- 6 mini sesame seed buns



Serve with your favorite sides of chips, pickle or pork-n-beans.

**Cook Time:** 15 minutes **Level:** Easy **Yield:** 6 Servings

**Preparation:** Follow Curly's microwave cooking instructions on package. Remove Curly's cooked tub from your microwave (be careful, it's hot). Add your favorite BBQ sauce and ample servings of delicious Curly's on top of your favorite coleslaw and sesame seed buns.

## Beef Steak Kabobs

### Ingredients

- 1 tub of Curly's Sauceless Beef Steak
- 1 bottle of teriyaki sauce
- 1 large red onion, cut into ½-inch wide rings
- 1 large red pepper seeded, and cut into quarters
- 1 large green pepper seeded, and cut into quarters
- Fresh mushrooms
- 1 cup halved grape or cherry tomatoes
- Skewers, if wooden, soaked in water for 20 to 30 minutes



**Cook Time:** 30 minutes **Level:** Medium **Yield:** 6 servings

**Preparation:** Marinate vegetables in teriyaki sauce before grilling. Wrap an individual vegetable with a slice of Curly's Beef Steak and place on skewer, alternating vegetables until skewer is full. Place on grill for 10 minutes and serve.

## BBQ Sauced Beef Tacos

### Ingredients

- 1 tub of Curly's Famous Pulled Beef BBQ (YUM!)
- 1 package taco shells
- 1 tbsp. chopped tomato
- Shredded lettuce
- 1 oz. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 tbsp. guacamole
- 1 tbsp. sour cream

**Cook Time:** 15 minutes

**Level:** Easy **Yield:** 6 Servings

**Preparation:** Follow Curly's microwave cooking instructions on package.

Remove Curly's cooked tub from your microwave (careful, it's hot).

Layer ingredients in a warmed taco shell and you're ready for a fiesta — **CURLY'S STYLE!**





# Ready To Be A Smoke Master?

## Tailgate with Curly's.

We smoke our Pulled Pork and Sausage for hours over a natural hickory wood fire. So they're ready in minutes from your grill or microwave. Making you, the Smoke Master!



### Big House Sausage

#### Ingredients:

- 1 Package of Curly's Smokehouse Sausage Links
- 1 Tub of Curly's Sauceless Pulled Pork
- 1 package of Hot Dog buns
- Your favorite BBQ sauce

#### Directions:

Grill (or heat in microwave) the Curly's Smokehouse Sausage links. Follow Curly's Pulled Pork microwave cooking instructions on package and remove from microwave (be careful, it's hot!). Place Curly's Smokehouse Link on a bun and add pulled pork on top. Drizzle with your favorite BBQ sauce and enjoy.

Recommended Side Dish: Beer.

## Smoked for Hours Ready in Minutes

Check out [Curlys.com](http://Curlys.com) for more recipes and ideas.



## Texas Pete® Pork Tenderloin with Apple Napa Slaw

### Ingredients

2 pieces pork tenderloin, grilled and basted  
2 cups Texas Pete® Chipotle Hot Sauce  
1/4 cup Texas Pete® Hotter Hot Sauce  
Hoagie roll, toasted

### Slaw Ingredients

2 apples, diced small  
1/4 jicama root, peeled and diced small  
1/2 head napa cabbage, chopped  
2 carrots, shredded  
1/4 cup canola oil  
3 tbsp. rice wine vinegar  
1/4 cup scallion, chopped

**Preparation:** Pre-heat grill to medium high and grill pork tenderloin until internal temperature reaches 150° F. Baste continuously with delicious combination of Texas Pete® Chipotle Hot Sauce and Texas Pete® Hotter Hot Sauce. Allow to rest, then slice.



**Slaw Preparation:** Combine all ingredients and gently fold together. Refrigerate for 45 minutes to allow flavors to develop. Place slaw on toasted hoagie roll and arrange pork tenderloin slices atop slaw. Drizzle with Texas Pete® Chipotle Hot Sauce and Texas Pete® Hotter Hot Sauce.

## Curly's Buffalo Chicken Dip

### Ingredients

1/2 tub of Curly's Sauceless Chicken (broken into smaller, bite-size bits)  
2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened  
1 cup blue cheese dressing  
3/4 cup pepper sauce  
1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese  
Celery and/or crackers for dipping

**Preparation:** Heat the oven to 350° F. Stir the cream cheese in a 9-inch deep dish pie plate with a fork or whisk until it's smooth. Stir in the dressing, pepper sauce and blue cheese. Stir in the chicken. Sprinkle with the shredded cheddar cheese.

Bake for 20 minutes or until the chicken mixture is hot and bubbly. Serve with the celery and/or crackers for dipping.



**Cook Time:** 30 minutes **Level:** Easy **Yield:** 6 Servings

## Sanderson Farms Apricot-Glazed Grilled Chicken Wings

### Ingredients

4 pounds Sanderson Farms chicken wings, tips removed, and cut at the joint  
1 tsp. kosher salt  
3/4 cup apricot preserves  
2 garlic cloves, mashed  
1 tbsp. chopped fresh ginger  
1/4 cup soy sauce  
1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes  
juice from one lime, about 2 tbsp.  
1 tbsp. balsamic vinegar  
1/2 tsp. cumin  
2 tbsp. chopped chives  
fresh lime wedges for garnish

**Cook Time:** 20 minutes **Yield:** 4 Servings

**Preparation:** Season wings with salt.

Heat grill to medium high.

In the bowl of a food processor (small if available), combine preserves, garlic, ginger, soy sauce, red pepper flakes, lime juice, vinegar and cumin. Process until smooth. Add chives.

Place wings on the grill and cook for 8-10 minutes. Turn, and grill for another 5-6 minutes. With a pastry brush or spoon, brush the sauce on the wings. Cook for about 1 minute, and turn. Repeat on other side of wings. Cook for another minute. Wings should register 190° F when tested with an instant read thermometer.

Serve the wings garnished with lime wedges.





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# RECRUITING ATHLON CONSENSUS

# TOP 100

presented by

# Wrangler®

Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1. Robert Nkemdiche	DE	6'5"	270	Loganville, GA	Ole Miss	51. Ryan Green	RB	5'10"	187	St. Petersburg, FL	Florida State
2. Jaylon Smith	LB	6'3"	220	Ft. Wayne, IN	Notre Dame	52. Chris Hawkins	DB	6'0"	170	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	USC
3. Vernon Hargreaves III	DB	5'11"	185	Tampa, FL	Florida	53. Altee Tenpenny	RB	6'0"	207	North Little Rock, AR	Alabama
4. Laremy Tunsil	OL	6'6"	320	Lake City, FL	Ole Miss	54. Alexander Anzalone	LB	6'3"	220	Wyomissing, PA	Florida
5. Su'a Cravens	DB	6'3"	215	Murrieta, CA	USC	55. Ty Isaac	RB	6'3"	225	Shorewood, IL	USC
6. Eddie Vanderdoes	DL	6'3"	285	Auburn, CA	Notre Dame	56. Daniel McMillian	LB	6'3"	220	Jacksonville, FL	Florida
7. Reuben Foster	LB	6'1"	244	Auburn, AL	Alabama	57. Ethan Pocic	OL	6'7"	285	Lemont, IL	LSU
8. Matthew Thomas	LB	6'3"	205	Miami, FL	Florida State	58. Mike Mitchell	LB	6'4"	225	Plano, TX	Ohio State
9. Kenny Bigelow	DL	6'3"	295	Elkton, MD	USC	59. Holland Fisher	S	6'2"	200	Richmond, VA	Virginia Tech
10. Montravius Adams	DT	6'3"	315	Vienna, GA	Auburn	60. Taquan Mizell	RB	5'10"	185	Virginia Beach, VA	Virginia
11. Max Browne	QB	6'5"	215	Sammamish, WA	USC	61. Cam Burrows	CB	5'11"	200	Trotwood, OH	Ohio State
12. Derrick Henry	RB	6'3"	242	Yulee, FL	Alabama	62. Grant Hill	OL	6'6"	301	Huntsville, AL	Alabama
13. Christian Hackenberg	QB	6'3"	215	Palmyra, VA	Penn State	63. James Quick	WR	6'1"	180	Louisville, KY	Louisville
14. Laquon Treadwell	WR	6'3"	198	Crete, IL	Ole Miss	64. Stacy Coley	WR	6'1"	175	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Miami
15. Jalen Ramsey	DB	6'0"	189	Nashville, TN	Florida State	65. Tyren Jones	RB	5'9"	215	Marietta, GA	Alabama
16. Kendall Fuller	CB	5'11"	180	Baltimore, MD	Virginia Tech	66. Tahaan Goodman	DB	6'2"	190	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	UCLA
17. Jonathan Allen	LB	6'3"	264	Leesburg, VA	Alabama	67. Steven Mitchell	WR	5'10"	180	Pasadena, CA	USC
18. Chris Jones	DE	6'5"	250	Houston, MS	Mississippi State	68. Patrick Kugler	OL	6'5"	280	Wexford, PA	Michigan
19. O.J. Howard	TE	6'6"	235	Prattville, AL	Alabama	69. Ezekiel Elliott	RB	6'0"	210	St. Louis, MO	Ohio State
20. Thomas Tyner	RB	5'11"	201	Aloha, OR	Oregon	70. Frank Herron	DE	6'5"	245	Memphis, TN	LSU
21. Carl Lawson	DE	6'2"	250	Alpharetta, GA	Auburn	71. Dontre Wilson	ATH	5'10"	174	DeSoto, TX	Ohio State
22. Kelvin Taylor	RB	5'11"	216	Belle Glade, FL	Florida	72. Dymonte Thomas	DB	6'2"	195	Alliance, OH	Michigan
23. Robert Foster	WR	6'3"	187	Monaca, PA	Alabama	73. Greg Gilmore	DT	6'4"	275	Hope Mills, NC	LSU
24. Keith Ford	RB	5'11"	208	Cypress, TX	Oklahoma	74. Shane Morris	QB	6'3"	183	Warren, MI	Michigan
25. Ricky Seals-Jones	WR	6'5"	225	Sealy, TX	Texas A&M	75. Justin Manning	DT	6'1"	270	Dallas, TX	Texas A&M
26. Derrick Green	RB	5'11"	220	Richmond, VA	Michigan	76. Cooper Bateman	QB	6'3"	215	Murray, UT	Alabama
27. Vonn Bell	S	6'1"	190	Rossville, GA	Ohio State	77. Kendell Beckwith	LB	6'3"	225	Jackson, LA	LSU
28. Robbie Rhodes	WR	6'0"	185	Ft. Worth, TX	Baylor	78. Marcell Harris	DB	6'2"	220	Orlando, FL	Florida
29. Max Redfield	DB	6'2"	195	Mission Viejo, CA	Notre Dame	79. Demore'ea Stringfellow	WR	6'3"	215	Perris, CA	Washington
30. Mackensie Alexander	DB	5'11"	185	Immokalee, FL	Clemson	80. Evan Lisle	OL	6'6"	290	Centerville, OH	Ohio State
31. Leon McQuay III	DB	6'2"	185	Seffner, FL	USC	81. Demarcus Robinson	WR	6'2"	200	Ft. Valley, GA	Florida
32. Tony Conner	DB	6'2"	205	Batesville, MS	Ole Miss	82. Tray Matthews	DB	6'1"	190	Newnan, GA	Georgia
33. Darius James	OL	6'5"	319	Killeen, TX	Texas	83. Tim Williams	LB	6'3"	235	Baton Rouge, LA	Alabama
34. A'Shawn Robinson	DL	6'4"	320	Ft. Worth, TX	Alabama	84. ArDarius Stewart	ATH	6'0"	190	Fultondale, AL	Alabama
35. Jalin Marshall	WR	6'0"	190	Middletown, OH	Ohio State	85. Hunter Henry	TE	6'5"	238	Little Rock, AR	Arkansas
36. DeMarcus Walker	DE	6'3"	265	Jacksonville, FL	Florida State	86. Brice Ramsey	QB	6'3"	195	Kingsland, GA	Georgia
37. Joey Bosa	DL	6'5"	270	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Ohio State	87. Kevin Olsen	QB	6'3"	200	Wayne, NJ	Miami
38. Kent Perkins	OL	6'5"	300	Dallas, TX	Texas	88. Justin Davis	RB	6'1"	215	Stockton, CA	USC
39. Priest Willis	DB	6'2"	185	Tempe, AZ	UCLA	89. Maurice Smith	DB	6'0"	180	Sugar Land, TX	Alabama
40. Derrick Griffin	WR	6'6"	215	Rosenberg, TX	Miami	90. Kelsey Griffin	DT	6'2"	292	Hoschton, GA	South Carolina
41. Alex Collins	RB	5'11"	207	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Arkansas	91. Marcus Baugh	TE	6'4"	245	Riverside, CA	Ohio State
42. Alvin Kamara	RB	5'10"	195	Norcross, GA	Alabama	92. Kyle Bosch	OL	6'5"	311	Wheaton, IL	Michigan
43. Dorian Johnson	OL	6'5"	290	Belle Vernon, PA	Pitt	93. Isaac Savaiinaea	LB	6'3"	230	Honolulu, HI	UCLA
44. Adam Breneman	TE	6'4"	230	Cedar Cliff, PA	Penn State	94. Isaiah Golden	DT	6'2"	320	Carthage, TX	Texas A&M
45. Tre'Davious White	DB	5'10"	170	Shreveport, LA	LSU	95. Derwin Gray	OL	6'5"	290	Washington, DC	Maryland
46. Greg Bryant	RB	5'11"	200	Delray Beach, FL	Notre Dame	96. Larenz Bryant	LB	6'0"	215	Charlotte, NC	South Carolina
47. Dee Liner	DL	6'3"	281	Muscle Shoals, AL	Alabama	97. Steve Elmer	OL	6'5"	300	Midland, MI	Notre Dame
48. Al-Quadin Muhammad	DE	6'3"	230	Irvington, NJ	Miami	98. Artie Burns	DB	6'0"	183	Miami, FL	Miami
49. Eli Apple	CB	6'0"	184	Voorhees, NJ	Ohio State	99. Marquez North	WR	6'4"	214	Charlotte, NC	Tennessee
50. Elijah Daniel	DE	6'4"	250	Avon, IN	Auburn	100. Michael Hutchings	LB	6'2"	215	Antioch, CA	USC

The Athlon Consensus 100 is a compilation of the rankings of six major recruiting services. We regard this as a fair representation of the top players in the country. For more detailed recruiting coverage, visit [athlonsports.com/recruiting](http://athlonsports.com/recruiting).



# TOP 50 RECRUITING CLASSES

presented by



**1. ALABAMA** The Crimson Tide — with a record 15 Athlon Consensus 100 prospects — claim their third No. 1-rated class in six years. Bama inked four of the nation's top-13 running backs, two of the top-10 defensive linemen, three of the top-10 linebackers and the nation's No. 1 tight end.

**2. OHIO STATE** Urban Meyer landed 10 top-100 players in this group, once again focusing on defense. Six linemen, five defensive backs and a pair of linebackers give OSU great depth and talent on that side of the ball. Elite skill players Jalin Marshall, Dontre Wilson and Ezekiel Elliott headline the offensive class.

**3. NOTRE DAME** Brian Kelly's highest-rated class at Notre Dame is headlined by the superstar defensive trio of Jaylon Smith, Eddie Vanderdoes and Max Redfield. This group also features one of the best offensive line classes in the nation, highlighted by five of the nation's top 25 players at the position.

**4. FLORIDA** Desperate for playmakers on offense, Will Muschamp signed five wide receivers and two running backs, including elite tailback Kelvin Taylor. The nation's No. 1 defensive back, Vernon Hargreaves III, and three top-100 linebackers headline the defensive class.

**5. MICHIGAN** Brady Hoke's offensive line class is on par with Notre Dame's as the best in the land — five of the top-23 offensive linemen in the country signed with the Maize and Blue. Derrick Green leads a very talented three-man running back class.

**6. OLE MISS** An unprecedented class for the Rebels features the nation's No. 1 overall player (Robert Nkemdiche), the nation's No. 1 offensive lineman (Laremy Tunsil) and the nation's No. 1 wide receiver (Laquon Treadwell). Hugh Freeze might have signed the best class in school history.

**7. LSU** The class lacks the elite star power LSU fans are used to, but Les Miles did sign one of the nation's top groups of defensive linemen. Five offensive linemen, four wide receivers and two 4-star quarterbacks restock the offense.

**8. TEXAS A&M** A&M's deep 32-man class is one of the largest in the nation. It is headlined by elite talent at wide receiver (Ricky Seals-Jones, Sebastian Larue) and defensive line (Justin Manning, Isaiah Golden). Kevin Sumlin also landed top-flight quarterbacks Kohl Stewart and Kenny Hill.

**9. UCLA** Seven offensive linemen and five linebackers make up a large portion of the Pac-12's top class, but the top two rated players are defensive backs Priest Willis and Tahaan Goodman. Keep an eye on dual-threat quarterback Asiantii Woulard as well.

**10. AUBURN** The Tigers focused heavily on offensive skill players and the defensive line. Montravius Adams (defensive end) and Carl Lawson (defensive tackle) headline the haul, but three new quarterbacks, including Jeremy Johnson and Jason Smith, should help fix Auburn's problems under center.

**11. FLORIDA STATE** The Seminoles signed a balanced class that features star power on every level of the defense in lineman Demarcus Walker, linebacker Matthew Thomas and defensive back Jalen Ramsey.

**12. GEORGIA** This defense-heavy group features eight defensive backs, six linebackers and four defensive linemen. Top-100 quarterback Brice Ramsey and four wide receivers headline the offensive class.

**13. CLEMSON** The Tigers signed a versatile class that was clearly focused on the defensive side of the ball. A huge crop of defensive backs is headlined by cornerback Mackensie Alexander.

**14. OKLAHOMA** Running back Keith Ford is the most heralded member of a group that lacks the elite star power of Oklahoma classes in the recent past.

**15. WASHINGTON** Another great haul for the staff in Seattle, led by a deep and talented collection of defensive linemen and wide receivers.

**16. USC** Scholarship limitations kept this class small (13), but this group isn't short on talent with nine top-100 players, including the nation's No. 1 quarterback (Max Browne) and three of the top 15 defensive backs.

**17. NEBRASKA** One of Bo Pelini's highest-rated classes at Nebraska features a heavy focus on the trenches. The offensive line (six) and defensive line (six) account for 12 of the 26 signees.

**18. SOUTH CAROLINA** Eighteen of the 21 signees will play either on defense (13) or the offensive line (five). This group lacks the star power of the school's previous two or three classes, but is plenty talented.

**19. TEXAS** Two elite offensive linemen (Darius James and Kent Perkins) salvage a class that is considered by many to be one of Mack Brown's worst. Texas managed to sign only 15 players.

**20. OREGON** An offense-heavy class features star power at running back (Thomas Tyner) and wide receiver (Devon Allen), as well as the versatile Robinson twins — Tyree and Tyrell — both listed as athletes.

**21. VIRGINIA TECH** Frank Beamer signed the No. 3-rated class in the ACC by landing two top-100 defensive backs in Kendall Fuller and Holland Fisher. Bucky Hodges could be the quarterback of the future in Blacksburg.

**22. MISSISSIPPI STATE** Star defensive end Chris Jones leads a 20-man class heavy on skill players. Dan Mullen signed six wide receivers and three defensive backs.

**23. VANDERBILT** It's arguably the best class in Commodores history. James Franklin inked a star quarterback (Johnny McCrary) and wide receiver (Jordan Cunningham) as well as five defensive backs.

**24. MIAMI** Late addition Derrick Griffin moved this class into the top 25. Al Golden signed only 16 prospects but added star power at defensive end, tight end and defensive back.

**25. TENNESSEE** Quarterback Joshua Dobbs, wide receiver Marquez North and defensive lineman Jason Carr headline Tennessee's first class with Butch Jones at the helm.

**26. BAYLOR** All but one of the Bears' 23 signees hail from the state of Texas, including star wide receiver Robbie Rhodes.

**27. WEST VIRGINIA** Dana Holgorsen's 25-man class was heavy on wide receivers (five), linebackers (five) and safeties (four).

**28. NORTH CAROLINA** This was a small class (17), but it has plenty of star power with quarterback Mitch Trubisky and running back T.J. Logan.

**29. ARKANSAS** Despite landing a top-30 class, the Hogs ranked 12th in the SEC. The stars are running back Alex Collins and tight end Hunter Henry.

**30. OKLAHOMA STATE** Mike Gundy pulled 17 of his 23 signees from Texas. This class is deep but lacks any top-100 recruits.

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 31. VIRGINIA       | 41. ARIZONA STATE    |
| 32. CAL            | 42. MARYLAND         |
| 33. PENN STATE     | 43. OREGON STATE     |
| 34. KENTUCKY       | 44. TCU              |
| 35. MISSOURI       | 45. UTAH             |
| 36. MICHIGAN STATE | 46. INDIANA          |
| 37. ARIZONA        | 47. WASHINGTON STATE |
| 38. WISCONSIN      | 48. ILLINOIS         |
| 39. PITTSBURGH     | 49. STANFORD         |
| 40. RUTGERS        | 50. KANSAS           |



# BY POSITION

**QUARTERBACKS / RUNNING BACKS / WIDE RECEIVERS**  
**TIGHT ENDS / ATHLETES / OFFENSIVE LINEMEN**  
**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN / LINEBACKERS / DEFENSIVE BACKS**

presented by

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## QUARTERBACKS

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1. Max Browne	6'5"	215	Sammamish, WA	11	USC
2. Christian Hackenberg	6'3"	215	Palmyra, VA	13	Penn State
3. Shane Morris	6'3"	183	Warren, MI	74	Michigan
4. Cooper Bateman	6'3"	215	Murray, UT	76	Alabama
5. Brice Ramsey	6'3"	195	Kingsland, GA	86	Georgia
6. Kevin Olsen	6'3"	200	Wayne, NJ	87	Miami
7. Ryan Burns	6'5"	225	Leesburg, VA	113	Stanford
8. Troy Williams	6'2"	205	Los Angeles, CA	114	Washington
9. Cody Thomas	6'5"	220	Colleyville, TX	118	Oklahoma
10. Hayden Rettig	6'2"	201	Los Angeles, CA	143	LSU
11. Mitch Trubisky	6'3"	200	Mentor, OH	150	North Carolina
12. Tyrone Swoopes	6'4"	245	Whitewright, TX	151	Texas
13. Asiantli Woulard	6'3"	205	Winter Park, FL	152	UCLA
14. Jeremy Johnson	6'5"	215	Montgomery, AL	155	Auburn
15. Joshua Dobbs	6'3"	190	Alpharetta, GA	164	Tennessee
16. Kohl Stewart	6'2"	200	Tomball, TX	170	Texas A&M
17. Anu Solomon	6'1"	205	Las Vegas, NV	173	Arizona
18. J.T. Barrett	6'1"	225	Wichita Falls, TX	174	Ohio State
19. Jason Smith	6'1"	180	Mobile, AL	180	Auburn
20. Bucky Hodges	6'5"	230	Virginia Beach, VA	187	Virginia Tech
21. Damion Terry	6'4"	220	Erie, PA	198	Michigan State
22. Malik Zaire	6'1"	190	Kettering, OH	199	Notre Dame
23. Aaron Bailey	6'2"	220	Bolingbrook, IL	215	Illinois
24. Kenny Hill	6'1"	215	Southlake, TX	219	Texas A&M
25. Jared Goff	6'4"	185	Kentfield, CA	224	California



MAX BROWNE  
QB, USC



DERRICK HENRY  
RB, ALABAMA



THOMAS TYNER  
RB, OREGON

## RUNNING BACKS

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1. Derrick Henry	6'3"	242	Yulee, FL	12	Alabama
2. Thomas Tyner	5'11"	201	Aloha, OR	20	Oregon
3. Kelvin Taylor	5'11"	216	Belle Glade, FL	22	Florida
4. Keith Ford	5'11"	208	Cypress, TX	24	Oklahoma
5. Derrick Green	5'11"	220	Richmond, VA	26	Michigan
6. Alex Collins	5'11"	207	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	41	Arkansas
7. Alvin Kamara	5'10"	195	Norcross, GA	42	Alabama
8. Greg Bryant	5'11"	200	Delray Beach, FL	46	Notre Dame
9. Ryan Green	5'10"	187	St. Petersburg, FL	51	Florida State
10. Altee Tenpenny	6'0"	207	North Little Rock, AR	53	Alabama
11. Ty Isaac	6'3"	225	Shorewood, IL	55	USC
12. Taquan Mizell	5'10"	180	Virginia Beach, VA	60	Virginia
13. Tyren Jones	5'9"	215	Marietta, GA	65	Alabama
14. Ezekiel Elliott	6'0"	210	St. Louis, MO	69	Ohio State
15. Justin Davis	6'1"	215	Stockton, CA	88	USC
16. Tarean Folston	5'10"	190	Cocoa, FL	112	Notre Dame
17. Terrell Newby	5'10"	180	West Hills, CA	123	Nebraska
18. De'Veon Smith	5'11"	218	Warren, OH	134	Michigan
19. Kailo Moore	5'10"	190	Rosedale, MS	138	Ole Miss
20. Corey Clement	5'11"	210	Glassboro, NJ	139	Wisconsin
21. T.J. Logan	5'10"	180	Greensboro, NC	157	North Carolina
22. Tyshon Dye	6'1"	205	Elberton, GA	201	Clemson
23. David Williams	6'1"	200	Philadelphia, PA	204	South Carolina
24. Mark Dodson	5'10"	193	Memphis, TN	217	Ole Miss
25. Kyle Hicks	5'10"	190	Arlington, TX	226	TCU

## WIDE RECEIVERS

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1. Laquon Treadwell	6'3"	198	Crete, IL	14	Ole Miss
2. Robert Foster	6'3"	187	Monaca, PA	23	Alabama
3. Ricky Seals-Jones	6'5"	225	Sealy, TX	25	Texas A&M
4. Robbie Rhodes	6'0"	190	Ft. Worth, TX	28	Baylor
5. Jalin Marshall	6'0"	190	Middletown, OH	35	Ohio State
6. Derrick Griffin	6'6"	215	Rosenberg, TX	40	Miami
7. James Quick	6'1"	180	Louisville, KY	63	Louisville
8. Stacy Coley	6'1"	175	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	64	Miami
9. Steven Mitchell	5'10"	180	Pasadena, CA	67	USC
10. Demore'ea Stringfellow	6'3"	215	Perris, CA	79	Washington
11. Demarcus Robinson	6'2"	200	Ft. Valley, GA	81	Florida
12. Marquez North	6'4"	214	Charlotte, NC	99	Tennessee
13. Alvin Bailey	5'11"	170	Seffner, FL	106	Florida
14. Ahmad Fulwood	6'4"	200	Jacksonville, FL	126	Florida
15. Sebastian Larue	5'11"	180	Los Angeles, CA	127	Texas A&M
16. Levonte Whitfield	5'9"	176	Orlando, FL	142	Florida State
17. Tony Stevens	6'3"	175	Orlando, FL	167	Auburn
18. Tori Hunter Jr.	6'0"	180	Prosper, TX	168	Notre Dame
19. Tyler Boyd	6'2"	185	Clairton, PA	179	Pitt
20. Jordan Cunningham	6'1"	175	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	182	Vanderbilt
21. LaDuvionte Gonzalez	5'10"	165	Cedar Hill, TX	185	Texas A&M
22. John Ross	5'11"	180	Long Beach, CA	186	Washington
23. Earnest Robinson	6'2"	205	Pinson, AL	189	Auburn
24. Devon Allen	6'0"	187	Phoenix, AZ	190	Oregon
25. Jacorey Warrick	5'10"	182	Houston, TX	197	Texas
26. Darrell Daniels	6'4"	220	Pittsburg, CA	199	Washington
27. Shelton Gibson	6'1"	175	Cleveland Heights, OH	208	West Virginia
28. Darren Carrington	6'2"	186	San Diego, CA	209	Oregon
29. Jake Oliver	6'4"	205	Dallas, TX	235	Texas
30. Eldridge Massington	6'1"	206	Mesquite, TX	-	UCLA



RICKY SEALS-JONES  
WR, TEXAS A&M



JALIN MARSHALL  
WR, OHIO STATE



JAMES QUICK  
WR, LOUISVILLE

## TIGHT ENDS

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1. O.J. Howard	6'6"	235	Prattville, AL	19	Alabama
2. Adam Breneman	6'4"	230	Cedar Cliff, PA	44	Penn State
3. Hunter Henry	6'5"	238	Little Rock, AR	85	Arkansas
4. Marcus Baugh	6'4"	245	Riverside, CA	91	Ohio State
5. DeSean Smith	6'4"	226	Lake Charles, LA	125	LSU
6. Standish Doherty	6'4"	255	Belle Chasse, LA	218	Miami
7. Jake Butt	6'6"	235	Pickerington, OH	221	Michigan
8. Durham Smythe	6'5"	230	Belton, TX	-	Notre Dame
9. Mike Heuerman	6'4"	225	Naples, FL	-	Notre Dame
10. Thomas Duarte	6'4"	225	Santa Ana, CA	-	UCLA

## ATHLETES

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1. Dontre Wilson	5'10"	174	DeSoto, TX	71	Ohio State
2. ArDarius Stewart	6'0"	180	Fultondale, AL	84	Alabama
3. Gareon Conley	6'2"	170	Massillon, OH	116	Ohio State
4. Tramel Terry	5'11"	190	Goose Creek, SC	117	Georgia
5. Jeryl Brazil	5'9"	181	Loranger, LA	128	LSU
6. Tyrell Robinson	6'4"	201	San Diego, CA	131	Oregon
7. Jayron Kearse	6'4"	205	Ft. Myers, FL	175	Clemson
8. Ashton Shumpert	6'2"	215	Fulton, MS	188	Mississippi State
9. Anthony Averett	6'0"	170	Woodbury, NJ	191	Alabama
10. Tyree Robinson	6'4"	200	San Diego, CA	212	Oregon





# Real. Comfortable. Jeans.

## OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1. Laremy Tunsil	6'6"	320	Lake City, FL	4	Ole Miss
2. Darius James	6'5"	319	Killeen, TX	33	Texas
3. Kent Perkins	6'5"	300	Dallas, TX	38	Texas
4. Dorian Johnson	6'6"	290	Belle Vernon, PA	43	Pittsburgh
5. Ethan Pocic	6'7"	285	Lemont, IL	57	LSU
6. Grant Hill	6'6"	301	Huntsville, AL	62	Alabama
7. Patrick Kugler	6'5"	280	Wexford, PA	68	Michigan
8. Evan Lisle	6'6"	290	Centerville, OH	80	Ohio State
9. Kyle Bosch	6'5"	311	Wheaton, IL	92	Michigan
10. Derwin Gray	6'5"	290	Washington, DC	95	Maryland
11. Steve Elmer	6'5"	300	Midland, MI	97	Notre Dame
12. Hunter Bivin	6'6"	290	Owensboro, KY	101	Notre Dame
13. John Montelus	6'5"	305	Everett, MA	102	Notre Dame
14. Khalil Rodgers	6'3"	310	New Castle, DE	105	USC
15. Austin Golsen	6'6"	290	Prattville, AL	107	Ole Miss
16. David Dawson	6'4"	282	Detroit, MI	109	Michigan
17. Ira Denson	6'4"	317	Madison, FL	120	Florida State
18. Brandon Mahon	6'4"	315	Randolph, NJ	132	Penn State
19. Tyrone Crowder	6'5"	325	Washingham, NC	135	Clemson
20. Mike McGlinchey	6'7"	280	Philadelphia, PA	140	Notre Dame
21. Josh Boutte	6'4"	324	New Iberia, LA	144	LSU
22. Chris Fox	6'6"	297	Parker, CO	146	Michigan
23. Logan Tuley-Tillman	6'7"	30	Peoria, IL	154	Michigan
24. Jake Raulerson	6'5"	262	Celina, TX	161	Texas
25. Colin McGovern	6'5"	280	New Lenox, IL	181	Notre Dame
26. Denver Kirkland	6'5"	320	Miami, FL	184	Arkansas
27. Christian Morris	6'6"	285	Memphis, TN	207	UCLA
28. Shamire DeVine	6'7"	355	Atlanta, GA	214	Georgia Tech
29. Brandon Kublanow	6'3"	290	Marietta, GA	230	Georgia
30. Ishmael Wilson	6'4"	280	Dallas, TX	-	Texas A&M

## DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1. Robert Nkemdiche	6'5"	270	Loganville, GA	1	Ole Miss
2. Eddie Vanderdoes	6'3"	285	Auburn, CA	6	Notre Dame
3. Kenny Bigelow	6'3"	295	Elkton, MD	9	USC
4. Montravius Adams	6'3"	315	Vienna, GA	10	Auburn
5. Chris Jones	6'5"	250	Houston, MS	18	Mississippi State
6. Carl Lawson	6'2"	250	Alpharetta, GA	21	Auburn
7. A'Shawn Robinson	6'4"	320	Ft. Worth, TX	34	Alabama
8. DeMarcus Walker	6'3"	265	Jacksonville, FL	36	Florida State
9. Joey Bosa	6'5"	270	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	37	Ohio State
10. Dee Liner	6'3"	281	Muscle Shoals, AL	47	Alabama
11. Al-Quadin Muhammad	6'3"	230	Irvington, NJ	48	Miami
12. Elijah Daniel	6'4"	250	Avon, IN	50	Auburn
13. Frank Herron	6'5"	245	Memphis, TN	70	LSU
14. Greg Gilmore	6'4"	275	Hope Mills, NC	73	LSU
15. Justin Manning	6'1"	270	Dallas, TX	75	Texas A&M
16. Kelsey Griffin	6'2"	292	Hoschton, GA	90	South Carolina
17. Isaiah Golden	6'2"	320	Carthage, TX	94	Texas A&M
18. Kyle Fitts	6'4"	260	Redlands, CA	103	UCLA
19. Elijah Qualls	6'2"	285	Petaluma, CA	110	Washington
20. Wyatt Teller	6'5"	250	Bealeton, VA	115	Virginia Tech
21. Caleb Brantley	6'3"	304	Crescent City, FL	119	Florida
22. Henry Poggi	6'4"	260	Baltimore, MD	122	Michigan
23. Darius Paige	6'4"	314	Foley, AL	129	Alabama
24. Daeshon Hall	6'6"	225	Lancaster, TX	136	Texas A&M
25. Taco Charlton	6'6"	249	Pickerington, OH	141	Michigan
26. Greg Webb	6'2"	310	Erial, NJ	156	North Carolina
27. Isaac Rochell	6'5"	265	McDonough, GA	158	Notre Dame
28. D.J. Ward	6'2"	245	Moore, OK	165	Oklahoma
29. Andrew Billings	6'0"	305	Waco, TX	171	Baylor
30. Garrett Sickles	6'4"	238	Little Silver, NJ	176	Penn State
31. Jason Hatcher	6'3"	250	Louisville, KY	177	Kentucky
32. Jason Carr	6'5"	260	Memphis, TN	192	Tennessee
33. Dajaun Drennon	6'4"	230	Clementon, NJ	196	North Carolina
34. Ebenezer Ogundeko	6'3"	230	Brooklyn, NY	205	Clemson
35. Christian Lacouture	6'5"	290	Lincoln, NE	206	LSU
36. Maquedius Bain	6'5"	286	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	210	LSU
37. Takkarist McKinley	6'3"	240	Richmond, CA	211	Cal
38. Tashawn Bower	6'5"	241	Somerville, NJ	213	LSU
39. Keith Bryant	6'2"	306	Delray Beach, FL	216	Florida State
40. Maurice Hurst Jr.	6'2"	305	Westwood, MA	222	Michigan

## LINEBACKERS

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1. Jaylon Smith	6'3"	220	Ft. Wayne, IN	2	Notre Dame
2. Reuben Foster	6'1"	244	Auburn, AL	7	Alabama
3. Matthew Thomas	6'3"	205	Miami, FL	8	Florida State
4. Jonathan Allen	6'3"	264	Leesburg, VA	17	Alabama
5. Alexander Anzalone	6'3"	220	Wyomissing, PA	54	Florida
6. Daniel McMillian	6'3"	220	Jacksonville, FL	56	Florida
7. Mike Mitchell	6'4"	225	Piano, TX	58	Ohio State
8. Kendall Beckwith	6'3"	225	Jackson, LA	77	LSU
9. Tim Williams	6'3"	235	Baton Rouge, LA	83	Alabama
10. Isaac Savaiinaea	6'3"	230	Honolulu, HI	93	UCLA
11. Larenz Bryant	6'0"	215	Charlotte, NC	96	South Carolina
12. Michael Hutchings	6'2"	215	Antioch, CA	100	USC
13. Trey Johnson	6'2"	220	Lawrenceville, GA	111	Ohio State
14. Dorian O'Daniel	6'1"	205	Olney, MD	121	Clemson
15. Deondre Davis	6'3"	215	Cypress, TX	130	Texas
16. Myles Jack	6'3"	230	Bellevue, WA	137	UCLA
17. Peter Kalambayi	6'3"	240	Matthews, NC	145	Stanford
18. Ben Boulware	6'1"	230	Anderson, SC	149	Clemson
19. Mike McCray	6'4"	230	Trotwood, OH	148	Michigan
20. Matt Rolin	6'4"	205	Ashburn, VA	153	Florida
21. Yannick Ngakoue	6'2"	228	Bowie, MD	160	Maryland
22. Tim Kimbrough	6'1"	226	Indianapolis, IN	166	Georgia
23. Quinton Powell	6'2"	220	Deltona, FL	172	USC
24. Deon Hollins	6'2"	222	Missouri City, TX	178	UCLA
25. E.J. Levenberry	6'3"	230	Woodbridge, VA	183	Florida State
26. Doug Randolph	6'3"	230	Richmond, VA	203	Notre Dame
27. Torrone Prevot	6'3"	214	Houston, TX	202	Oregon
28. Jermaine Grace	6'1"	210	Miami Gardens, FL	220	Miami
29. Jon Reschke	6'2"	230	Sterling Heights, MI	223	Michigan State
30. Marcus Newby	6'1"	210	North Potomac, MD	228	Nebraska

## DEFENSIVE BACKS

Player	Ht	Wt	Hometown	AC 100	School
1. Vernon Hargreaves III	5'11"	185	Tampa, FL	3	Florida
2. Su'a Cravens	6'3"	215	Murrieta, CA	5	USC
3. Jalen Ramsey	6'0"	189	Nashville, TN	15	Florida State
4. Kendall Fuller	5'11"	180	Baltimore, MD	16	Virginia Tech
5. Vonn Bell	6'1"	190	Rossville, GA	27	Ohio State
6. Max Redfield	6'2"	195	Mission Viejo, CA	29	Notre Dame
7. Macensie Alexander	5'11"	185	Immokalee, FL	30	Clemson
8. Leon McQuay III	6'2"	185	Seffner, FL	31	USC
9. Tony Conner	6'2"	205	Batesville, MS	32	Ole Miss
10. Priest Willis	6'2"	200	Tempe, AZ	39	UCLA
11. Tre'Davious White	5'10"	170	Shreveport, LA	45	LSU
12. Eli Apple	6'0"	184	Voorhees, NJ	49	Ohio State
13. Chris Hawkins	6'0"	170	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	52	USC
14. Holland Fisher	6'2"	200	Richmond, VA	59	Virginia Tech
15. Cam Burrows	5'11"	200	Trotwood, OH	61	Ohio State
16. Tahaan Goodman	6'2"	190	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	66	UCLA
17. Dymonte Thomas	6'2"	195	Alliance, OH	72	Michigan
18. Marcell Harris	6'2"	220	Orlando, FL	78	Florida
19. Tray Matthews	6'0"	190	Newman, GA	82	Georgia
20. Maurice Smith	6'0"	180	Sugar Land, TX	89	Alabama
21. Artie Burns	6'0"	183	Miami, FL	98	Miami
22. Keanu Neal	6'0"	203	Bushnell, FL	104	Florida
23. Jourdan Lewis	5'10"	159	Detroit, MI	108	Michigan
24. Shaq Wiggins	5'10"	160	Tyrone, GA	124	Georgia
25. Cole Luke	6'0"	180	Chandler, AZ	133	Notre Dame
26. Johnny Johnson	5'10"	180	Fresno, CA	147	UCLA
27. Stanvon Taylor	5'11"	175	Tulsa, OK	158	Oklahoma
28. Antwan Davis	5'11"	192	Bastrop, TX	163	Texas
29. Hatari Byrd	6'1"	195	Fresno, CA	162	Oklahoma
30. Tyler Foreman	6'2"	190	Encino, CA	169	UCLA
31. Rashard Robinson	6'1"	163	Pompano Beach, FL	193	LSU
32. Brian Walker	5'11"	175	Charlotte, NC	194	North Carolina
33. Kameron Miles	6'1"	215	Mesquite, TX	195	Texas A&M
34. Tim Harris	6'2"	190	Richmond, VA	225	Virginia
35. Rashard Fant	5'10"	165	Atlanta, GA	233	Indiana
36. Brandon Langley	6'1"	180	Marietta, GA	--	Georgia
37. Nick Washington	5'11"	170	Jacksonville, FL	--	Florida
38. Jayme Thompson	6'2"	185	Toledo, OH	--	Ohio State
39. Reggie Wilkerson	5'11"	165	Citra, FL	--	Georgia
40. Noel Ellis	5'10"	175	New Orleans, LA	--	Texas A&M



# BY CONFERENCE

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SUN BELT

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## Wrangler®



Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1. Matthew Thomas	LB	6'3"	205	Miami, FL	Florida State
2. Jalen Ramsey	DB	6'0"	189	Nashville, TN	Florida State
3. Kendall Fuller	DB	5'11"	180	Baltimore, MD	Virginia Tech
4. MacKensie Alexander	DB	5'11"	185	Immokalee, FL	Clemson
5. Demarcus Walker	DL	6'3"	265	Jacksonville, FL	Florida State
6. Derrick Griffin	WR	6'5"	220	Rosenberg, TX	Miami
7. Dorian Johnson	OL	6'6"	270	Belle Vernon, PA	Pitt
8. Al-Quadin Muhammad	DL	6'3"	230	Irvington, NJ	Miami
9. Ryan Green	RB	5'10"	187	St. Petersburg, FL	Florida State
10. Holland Fisher	DB	6'2"	200	Richmond, VA	Virginia Tech
11. Taquan Mizell	RB	5'10"	185	Virginia Beach, VA	Virginia
12. Stacy Coley	WR	6'1"	175	FL. Lauderdale, FL	Miami
13. Kevin Olsen	QB	6'3"	200	Wayne, NJ	Miami
14. Derwin Gray	OL	6'5"	290	Washington, DC	Maryland
15. Artie Burns	DB	6'0"	183	Miami, FL	Miami
16. Wyatt Teller	DL	6'5"	250	Bellefonte, VA	Virginia Tech
16. Ira Denson	OL	6'4"	317	Madison, FL	Florida State
18. Dorian O'Daniel	LB	6'1"	205	Olney, MD	Clemson
19. Tyrone Crowder	OL	6'2"	325	Rockingham, NC	Clemson
20. Levonte Whitfield	WR	5'9"	176	Oriando, FL	Florida State
21. Ben Boulware	LB	6'1"	230	Anderson, SC	Clemson
22. Mitch Trubisky	QB	6'3"	200	Mentor, OH	North Carolina
23. Greg Webb	DL	6'2"	310	Erial, NJ	North Carolina
24. T.J. Logan	RB	5'10"	180	Greensboro, NC	North Carolina
25. Yannick Ngakoue	LB	6'2"	228	Bowie, MD	Maryland
26. Jayron Kearse	ATH	6'4"	205	FL. Myers, FL	Clemson
27. Tyler Boyd	WR	6'2"	185	Clairton, PA	Pitt
28. E.J. Levenberry	LB	6'3"	230	Woodbridge, VA	Florida State
29. Bucky Hodges	QB	6'5"	230	Virginia Beach, VA	Virginia Tech
30. Brian Walker	DB	5'11"	175	Charlotte, NC	North Carolina
31. Dajuan Drennon	DL	6'4"	230	Clementon, NJ	North Carolina
32. Tyshon Dye	RB	6'1"	205	Elberton, GA	Clemson
34. Ebenezer Ogundeko	DL	6'3"	230	Brooklyn, NY	Clemson
35. Shamire DeVine	OL	6'7"	355	Atlanta, GA	Georgia Tech
35. Keith Bryant	DL	6'2"	306	Delray Beach, FL	Florida State
36. Standish Dobard	TE	6'4"	255	Belle Chasse, LA	Miami
37. Jermaine Grace	LB	6'1"	210	Miami Gardens, FL	Miami
38. Tim Harris	DB	6'2"	190	Richmond, VA	Virginia
39. Corn Elder	ATH	5'10"	170	Nashville, TN	Miami
40. Isaiah Jones	WR	6'4"	210	Milton, FL	Florida State



JALEN RAMSEY  
DB, FSU



KENDALL FULLER  
DB, VIRGINIA TECH



KENT PERKINS  
OL, TEXAS

## ACC TEAM RANKINGS

- Florida State
- Clemson
- Virginia Tech
- Miami
- North Carolina
- Virginia
- Pittsburgh
- Maryland
- NC State
- Wake Forest
- Duke
- Syracuse
- Georgia Tech
- Boston College



Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1. Keith Ford	RB	5'11"	208	Cypress, TX	Oklahoma
2. Robbie Rhodes	WR	6'0"	185	FL. Worth, TX	Baylor
3. Darius James	OL	6'5"	319	Killeen, TX	Texas
4. Kent Perkins	OL	6'5"	300	Dallas, TX	Texas
5. Cody Thomas	QB	6'5"	220	Colleyville, TX	Oklahoma
6. Deoundrei Davis	LB	6'3"	215	Cypress, TX	Texas
7. Tyrone Swoopes	QB	6'4"	245	Whitewright, TX	Texas
8. Stanvon Taylor	DB	5'11"	175	Tulsa, OK	Oklahoma
9. Jake Raulerson	OL	6'5"	262	Celina, TX	Texas
10. Antwan Davis	DB	5'11"	192	Bastrop, TX	Texas
11. Hatari Byrd	DB	6'1"	195	Fresno, CA	Oklahoma
12. D.J. Ward	DL	6'2"	245	Moore, OK	Oklahoma
13. Andrew Billings	DL	6'0"	305	Waco, TX	Baylor
14. Jacorey Warrick	WR	5'10"	182	Houston, TX	Texas
15. Shelton Gibson	WR	6'1"	175	Cleveland Heights, OH	West Virginia

Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
16. Kyle Hicks	RB	5'10"	190	Arlington, TX	TCU
17. Jake Oliver	WR	6'4"	205	Dallas, TX	Texas
18. Ra'Shaad Samples	WR	5'11"	170	Dallas, TX	Oklahoma State
19. Kerrick Huggins	DL	6'3"	289	Dallas, TX	Oklahoma
20. L.J. Moore	DB	6'1"	175	Fresno, CA	Oklahoma
21. Marcell Ateman	WR	6'4"	190	Dallas, TX	Oklahoma State
22. Matt Dimon	DL	6'2"	252	Katy, TX	Oklahoma
23. Rami Hammad	OL	6'5"	320	Irving, TX	Texas
24. Naim Mustafaa	DL	6'4"	235	College Park, GA	Oklahoma State
25. Vincent Taylor	DL	6'3"	278	San Antonio, TX	Oklahoma State
26. Jake Campos	OL	6'7"	260	West Des Moines, IA	Iowa State
27. Chris Johnson	QB	6'4"	190	Bryan, TX	Baylor
28. Darrien Howard	LB	6'2"	250	Dayton, OH	West Virginia
29. Tevin Lawson	DL	6'4"	275	Denham Springs, LA	TCU
30. Devin Lauderdale	WR	5'11"	170	Houston, TX	Texas Tech

## BIG 12 TEAM RANKINGS

- Oklahoma
- Texas
- Baylor
- West Virginia
- Oklahoma State
- TCU
- Kansas
- Texas Tech
- Iowa State
- Kansas State



Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1. Christian Hackenberg	QB	6'3"	215	Palmyra, VA	Penn State
2. Derrick Green	RB	5'11"	220	Richmond, VA	Michigan
3. Vonn Bell	DB	6'1"	190	Rossville, GA	Ohio State
4. Jalin Marshall	WR	6'0"	190	Middletown, OH	Ohio State
5. Joey Bosa	DL	6'5"	270	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Ohio State
6. Adam Breneman	TE	6'4"	230	Cedar Cliff, PA	Penn State
7. Eli Apple	DB	6'0"	184	Voorhees, NJ	Ohio State
8. Mike Mitchell	LB	6'4"	225	Plano, TX	Ohio State
9. Cam Burrows	DB	5'11"	200	Trotwood, OH	Ohio State
10. Patrick Kugler	OL	6'5"	280	Wexford, PA	Michigan
11. Ezekiel Elliott	RB	6'0"	210	St. Louis, MO	Ohio State
12. Dontre Wilson	ATH	5'10"	174	DeSoto, TX	Ohio State
13. Dymonte Thomas	DB	6'2"	195	Alliance, OH	Michigan
14. Shane Morris	QB	6'3"	183	Warren, MI	Michigan
15. Evan Lisle	OL	6'6"	290	Centerville, OH	Ohio State
16. Marcus Baugh	TE	6'4"	245	Riverside, CA	Ohio State
17. Kyle Bosch	OL	6'5"	310	Wheaton, IL	Michigan
18. Jourdan Lewis	DB	5'10"	160	Detroit, MI	Michigan
19. David Dawson	OL	6'4"	285	Detroit, MI	Michigan
20. Trey Johnson	LB	6'2"	220	Lawrenceville, GA	Ohio State
21. Gareon Conley	ATH	6'2"	170	Massillon, OH	Ohio State
22. Henry Poggi	DL	6'4"	260	Baltimore, MD	Michigan
23. Terrell Newby	RB	5'10"	180	West Hills, CA	Nebraska
24. Brandon Mahon	OL	6'4"	315	Randolph, NJ	Penn State
25. De'Veon Smith	RB	5'11"	218	Warren, OH	Michigan
26. Corey Clement	RB	5'11"	210	Glassboro, NJ	Wisconsin
27. Taco Charlton	DL	6'6"	249	Pickerington, OH	Michigan
28. Chris Fox	OL	6'6"	297	Parker, CO	Michigan
29. Mike McCray	LB	6'4"	230	Trotwood, OH	Michigan
30. Logan Tuley-Tillman	OL	6'7"	307	Peoria, IL	Michigan
31. J.T. Barrett	QB	6'1"	225	Wichita Falls, TX	Ohio State
32. Garrett Sickels	DL	6'4"	238	Little Silver, NJ	Penn State
33. Damion Terry	QB	6'4"	220	Erie, PA	Michigan State
34. Aaron Bailey	QB	6'2"	220	Bolingbrook, IL	Illinois
35. Jake Butt	TE	6'6"	235	Pickerington, OH	Michigan
36. Maurice Hurst Jr.	DL	6'2"	305	Westwood, MA	Michigan
37. Jon Reschke	LB	6'2"	230	Sterling Heights, MI	Michigan State
38. Marcus Newby	LB	6'1"	210	North Potomac, MD	Nebraska
39. Michael Hill	DL	6'2"	215	Pendleton, SC	Ohio State
40. Rashard Fant	DB	5'10"	165	Atlanta, GA	Indiana

## BIG TEN TEAM RANKINGS

- Ohio State
- Michigan
- Nebraska
- Penn State
- Michigan State
- Wisconsin
- Indiana
- Illinois
- Northwestern
- Iowa
- Purdue
- Minnesota



# Real. Comfortable. Jeans.

## PAC-12

Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1. Su'a Cravens	DB	6'3"	215	Murrieta, CA	USC
2. Kenny Bigelow	DL	6'3"	295	Elkton, MD	USC
3. Max Browne	QB	6'5"	215	Sammamish, WA	USC
4. Thomas Tyner	RB	5'11"	201	Aloha, OR	Oregon
5. Leon McQuay III	DB	6'2"	185	Seffner, FL	USC
6. Priest Willis	DB	6'2"	185	Tempe, AZ	UCLA
7. Chris Hawkins	DB	6'0"	170	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	USC
8. Ty Isaac	RB	6'3"	225	Shorewood, IL	USC
9. Tahaan Goodman	DB	6'2"	190	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	UCLA
10. Steven Mitchell	WR	5'10"	180	Pasadena, CA	USC
11. Demore'ea Stringfellow	WR	6'3"	215	Perris, CA	Washington
12. Justin Davis	RB	6'1"	215	Stockton, CA	USC
13. Isaac Savaiinaea	LB	6'3"	230	Honolulu, HI	UCLA
14. Michael Hutchings	LB	6'2"	215	Antioch, CA	USC
15. Kyle Fitts	DL	6'4"	260	Redlands, CA	UCLA
16. Khalief Rodgers	OL	6'3"	310	New Castle, DE	USC
17. Elijah Qualls	DL	6'2"	285	Petaluma, CA	Washington
18. Ryan Burns	QB	6'5"	225	Leesburg, VA	Stanford
19. Troy Williams	QB	6'2"	205	Los Angeles, CA	Washington
20. Tyrell Robinson	ATH	6'4"	201	San Diego, CA	Oregon
21. Myles Jack	LB	6'3"	230	Belleuve, WA	UCLA
22. Peter Kalambayi	LB	6'3"	240	Matthews, NC	Stanford
23. Johnny Johnson	DB	5'10"	180	Fresno, CA	UCLA
24. Asiantii Woulard	QB	6'3"	205	Winter Park, FL	UCLA
25. Tyler Foreman	DB	6'2"	190	Encino, CA	UCLA
26. Quinton Powell	LB	6'2"	220	Deltona, FL	USC
27. Anu Solomon	QB	6'1"	205	Las Vegas, NV	Arizona
28. Deon Hollins	LB	6'2"	222	Missouri City, TX	UCLA
29. John Ross	WR	5'11"	180	Long Beach, CA	Washington
30. Devon Allen	WR	6'0"	187	Phoenix, AZ	Oregon
31. Darrell Daniels	WR	6'4"	220	Pittsburg, CA	Washington
32. Torrodney Prevot	LB	6'3"	214	Houston, TX	Oregon
33. Christian Morris	OL	6'6"	285	Memphis, TN	UCLA
34. Darren Carrington	WR	6'2"	186	San Diego, CA	Oregon
35. Takkarist McKinley	DL	6'3"	240	Richmond, CA	Cal
36. Tyree Robinson	ATH	6'4"	200	San Diego, CA	Oregon
37. Jared Goff	QB	6'4"	185	Kentfield, CA	Cal
38. Joe Mathis	DL	6'4"	250	Ontario, CA	Washington
39. Chans Cox	LB	6'3"	230	Lakeside, AZ	Arizona State
40. Eldridge Massington	WR	6'1"	206	Mesquite, TX	UCLA

## PAC-12 TEAM RANKINGS

1. UCLA
2. Washington
3. USC
4. Oregon
5. Cal
6. Arizona
7. Arizona State
8. Oregon State
9. Utah
10. Washington State
11. Stanford
12. Colorado



PRIEST WILLIS  
DB, UCLA



ROBERT NKEMDICHE  
DL, OLE MISS

## SEC

Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1. Robert Nkemdiche	DL	6'5"	270	Loganville, GA	Ole Miss
2. Vernon Hargreaves III	DB	5'11"	185	Tampa, FL	Florida
3. Laremy Tunsil	OL	6'6"	320	Lake City, FL	Ole Miss
4. Reuben Foster	LB	6'1"	244	Auburn, AL	Alabama
5. Montravius Adams	DL	6'3"	315	Vienna, GA	Auburn
6. Derrick Henry	RB	6'3"	242	Yulee, FL	Alabama
7. Laquon Treadwell	WR	6'3"	198	Crete, IL	Ole Miss
8. Jonathan Allen	LB	6'3"	264	Leesburg, VA	Alabama
9. Chris Jones	DL	6'5"	250	Houston, MS	Mississippi State
10. O.J. Howard	TE	6'6"	235	Prattville, AL	Alabama
11. Carl Lawson	DL	6'2"	250	Alpharetta, GA	Auburn
12. Kelvin Taylor	RB	5'10"	205	Belle Glade, FL	Florida
13. Robert Foster	WR	6'3"	187	Monaca, PA	Alabama
14. Ricky Seals-Jones	WR	6'5"	225	Sealy, TX	Texas A&M
15. Tony Conner	DB	6'2"	216	Batesville, MS	Ole Miss
16. A'Shawn Robinson	DL	6'4"	320	Ft. Worth, TX	Alabama
17. Alex Collins	RB	5'11"	207	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Arkansas
18. Alvin Kamara	RB	5'10"	195	Norcross, GA	Alabama
19. Tre'Davious White	DB	5'10"	170	Shreveport, LA	LSU
20. Dee Liner	DL	6'3"	281	Muscle Shoals, AL	Alabama
21. Elijah Daniel	DL	6'4"	250	Avon, IN	Auburn
22. Altee Tenpenny	RB	6'0"	207	North Little Rock, AR	Alabama
23. Alexander Anzalone	LB	6'3"	220	Wyomissing, PA	Florida
24. Daniel McMillian	LB	6'3"	220	Jacksonville, FL	Florida
25. Ethan Pocic	OL	6'7"	285	Lemont, IL	LSU
26. Grant Hill	OL	6'6"	301	Huntsville, AL	Alabama
27. Tyren Jones	RB	5'9"	215	Marietta, GA	Alabama
28. Frank Herron	DL	6'5"	245	Memphis, TN	LSU
29. Greg Gilmore	DL	6'4"	275	Hope Mills, NC	LSU
30. Justin Manning	DL	6'1"	270	Dallas, TX	Texas A&M
31. Cooper Bateman	QB	6'3"	215	Murray, UT	Alabama
32. Kendall Beckwith	LB	6'3"	225	Jackson, LA	LSU
33. Marcell Harris	DB	6'2"	220	Orlando, FL	Florida
34. Demarcus Robinson	WR	6'2"	200	Ft. Valley, GA	Florida
35. Tray Matthews	DB	6'0"	190	Newnan, GA	Georgia
36. Tim Williams	LB	6'3"	235	Baton Rouge, LA	Alabama
37. ArDarius Stewart	ATH	6'0"	190	Fultondale, AL	Alabama
38. Hunter Henry	TE	6'5"	238	Little Rock, AR	Arkansas
39. Brice Ramsey	QB	6'3"	195	Kingsland, GA	Georgia
40. Maurice Smith	DB	6'0"	180	Sugar Land, TX	Alabama
41. Kelsey Griffin	DL	6'2"	292	Hoschton, GA	South Carolina
42. Isaiah Golden	DL	6'2"	320	Carthage, TX	Texas A&M
43. Larenz Bryant	LB	6'0"	215	Charlotte, NC	South Carolina
44. Marquez North	WR	6'4"	214	Charlotte, NC	Tennessee
45. Keanu Neal	DB	6'1"	203	Bushnell, FL	Florida
46. Alvin Bailey	WR	6'0"	170	Seffner, FL	Florida
47. Austin Golson	OL	6'6"	290	Prattville, AL	Ole Miss
48. Tramel Terry	WR	5'11"	195	Goose Creek, SC	Georgia
49. Caleb Brantley	DL	6'3"	304	Crescent City, FL	Florida
50. Shaq Wiggins	DB	5'10"	168	Tyrone, GA	Georgia

## SEC TEAM RANKINGS

1. Alabama
2. Florida
3. Ole Miss
4. LSU
5. Texas A&M
6. Auburn
7. Georgia
8. South Carolina
9. Mississippi State
10. Vanderbilt
11. Tennessee
12. Arkansas
13. Kentucky
14. Missouri



FRANK HERRON  
DL, LSU



# BY CONFERENCE

ACC / BIG TEN / BIG 12 / PAC 12/ SEC  
AMERICAN / C-USA / MAC / MOUNTAIN WEST  
SUN BELT

presented by

## Wrangler®

### AMERICAN

Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1. James Quick	WR	6'1"	180	Louisville, KY	Louisville
2. Nadir Barnwell	DB	5'11"	190	Piscataway, NJ	Rutgers
3. Kyle Bolin	QB	6'3"	185	Lexington, KY	Louisville
4. Travis Johnson	TE	6'4"	225	Tampa, FL	Cincinnati
5. Dorian Miller	OL	6'3"	295	Metuchen, NJ	Rutgers
6. Lamar Robbins	DB	6'3"	188	Miami, FL	USF
7. Derrick Calloway	DL	6'1"	300	Bradenton, FL	USF
8. Stacy Thomas	DL	6'2"	235	Miami, FL	Louisville
9. Richard Benjamin	DB	6'1"	195	Tampa, FL	Louisville
10. De'Asian Richardson	DL	6'2"	285	Jacksonville, FL	Louisville
11. Buddy Brown	LB	6'3"	205	Williamstown, NJ	Temple
12. Deadrin Senat	DL	6'1"	311	Immokalee, FL	USF
13. Chucky Williams	CB	6'2"	180	Hialeah, FL	Louisville
14. Tim Boyle	QB	6'3"	215	Middlefield, CT	UConn
15. Myles Nash	LB	6'5"	205	Sicklerville, NJ	Rutgers

### AMERICAN TEAM RANKINGS

1. Rutgers
2. Louisville
3. South Florida
4. Houston
5. Cincinnati
6. Connecticut
7. SMU
8. UCF
9. Memphis
10. Temple

### C-USA

Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1. Devaris Brunson	LB	6'0"	210	Lake City, SC	East Carolina
2. Michael Johnson	DB	5'10"	170	Miami, FL	Marshall
3. Rob Boyd	OL	6'3"	295	Vian, OK	Tulsa
4. Kenneth Santa Marina	OL	6'5"	305	New Orleans, LA	Tulane
5. Jeremiah Benjamin	LB	6'2"	230	Hollywood, FL	Marshall
6. Dalton Rodriguez	DL	6'6"	250	Tulsa, OK	Tulsa
7. Christopher Robinson	DL	6'2"	265	Shreveport, LA	Southern Miss
8. De'Andre Wilson	DB	5'9"	170	Myrtle Beach, SC	Marshall
9. Tristan Mumford	LB	6'1"	225	Statesville, NC	East Carolina
10. Kamani Thomas	RB	5'9"	195	Dallas, GA	Middle Tennessee

### C-USA TEAM RANKINGS

1. Marshall
2. East Carolina
3. Southern Miss
4. Tulsa
5. Tulane
6. Louisiana Tech
7. FAU
8. Middle Tennessee
9. UAB
10. Rice
11. UTSA
12. FIU
13. North Texas
14. UTEP

### MAC

Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1. Rodney Adams	WR	6'1"	172	St. Petersburg, FL	Toledo
2. Delando Johnson	DB	6'2"	190	Baltimore, MD	Toledo
3. Brogan Roback	QB	6'4"	185	Maumee, OH	Eastern Michigan
4. Shannon Smith	DL	6'2"	280	Chicago, IL	Bowling Green
5. Lorenzo Woodley	RB	6'0"	210	Miami, FL	UMass
6. Jordan Martin	DB	6'2"	200	Upper Marlboro, MD	Toledo
7. Aregeros Turner	ATH	5'10"	170	Copley, OH	Northern Illinois
8. Fred Coppet	RB	5'9"	180	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Bowling Green
9. Darius Holiday	DL	6'5"	260	Miramar, FL	Bowling Green
10. Mike Rogers	WR	6'1"	185	Ft. Wayne, IN	Bowling Green

### MAC TEAM RANKINGS

1. Toledo
2. Bowling Green
3. Central Michigan
4. Northern Illinois
5. Massachusetts
6. Miami-OH
7. Western Michigan
8. Akron
9. Eastern Michigan
10. Ball State
11. Kent State
12. Ohio
13. Buffalo

### MOUNTAIN WEST

Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1. Zack Greenlee	QB	6'1"	183	Stockton, CA	Fresno State
2. Aaron Baltazar	RB	5'11"	185	Chula Vista, CA	Boise State
3. Julius Wilson	WR	6'0"	175	Culver City, CA	San Diego State
4. Ryan Finley	QB	6'4"	185	Phoenix, AZ	Boise State
5. Tanner Vallejo	LB	6'1"	230	Grass Valley, CA	Boise State
6. D.J. Moffitt	LB	6'2"	205	Livermore, CA	UNLV
7. Kendal Keys	WR	6'2"	190	San Diego, CA	Boise State
8. Nick Siler	OL	6'4"	250	Henderson, TX	Air Force
9. Tere Calloway	ATH	5'11"	180	Seattle, WA	Nevada
10. Darryl Richardson	QB	6'5"	230	Seffner, FL	San Diego State

### MOUNTAIN WEST TEAM RANKINGS

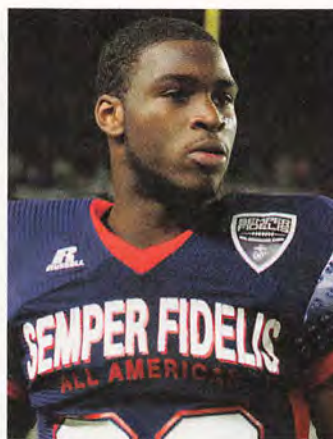
1. Boise State
2. Fresno State
3. San Diego State
4. Hawaii
5. Colorado State
6. Nevada
7. New Mexico
8. UNLV
9. Air Force
10. Utah State
11. Wyoming
12. San Jose State

### SUN BELT

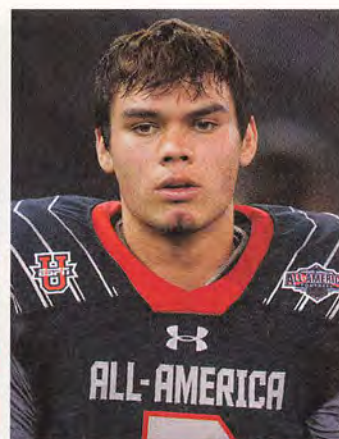
Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Hometown	School
1. Elijah McGuire	RB	5'11"	185	Houma, LA	ULL
2. Joe Fennell	OL	6'4"	300	Ft. Myers, FL	Western Kentucky
3. Kaleb Blanchard	RB	5'11"	195	Denham Springs, LA	South Alabama
4. George Williams	LB	5'11"	220	Miami, FL	ULL
5. Jamel James	RB	5'11"	215	Katy, TX	Texas State
6. James Clark	LB	6'3"	200	Sebastian, FL	ULL
7. Dila Rosemond	DB	5'10"	180	Cypress, TX	Texas State
8. Logan Cart	DL	6'4"	300	Owensboro, KY	Arkansas State
9. Scott Austin	WR	6'4"	180	Biloxi, MS	ULL
10. Simeon Thomas	DB	6'3"	190	Miami, FL	ULL

### SUN BELT TEAM RANKINGS

1. Louisiana-Lafayette
2. Texas State
3. Western Kentucky
4. South Alabama
5. Arkansas State
6. Troy
7. Georgia State
8. ULM



NADIR BARNWELL  
DB, RUTGERS



ZACK GREENLEE  
QB, FRESNO STATE

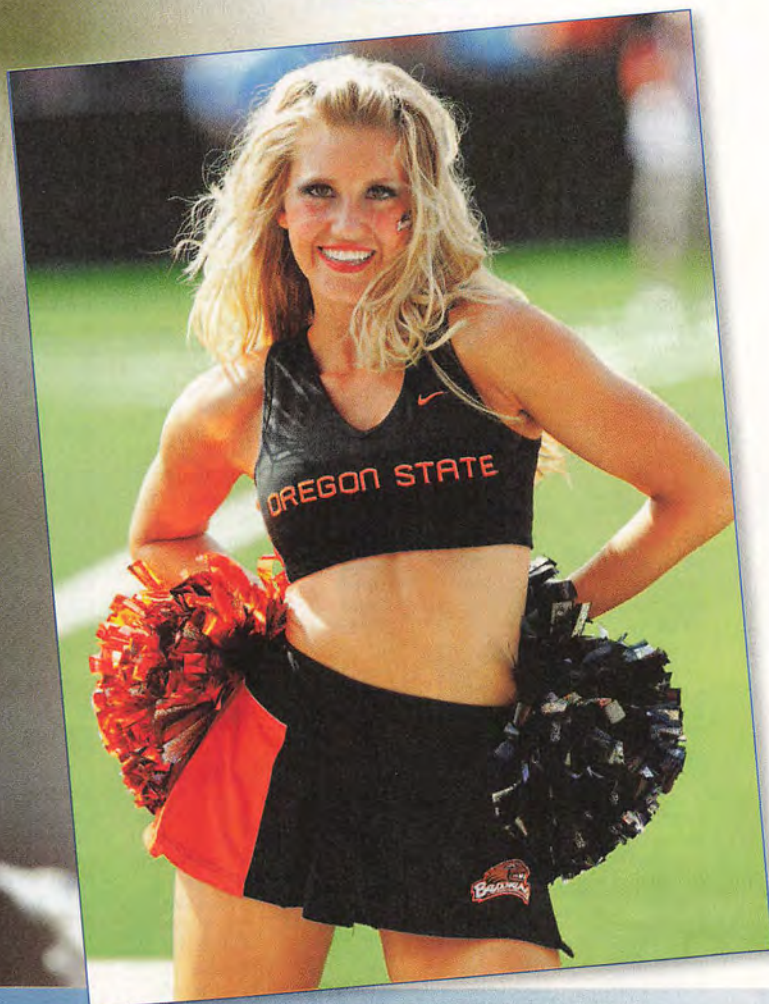
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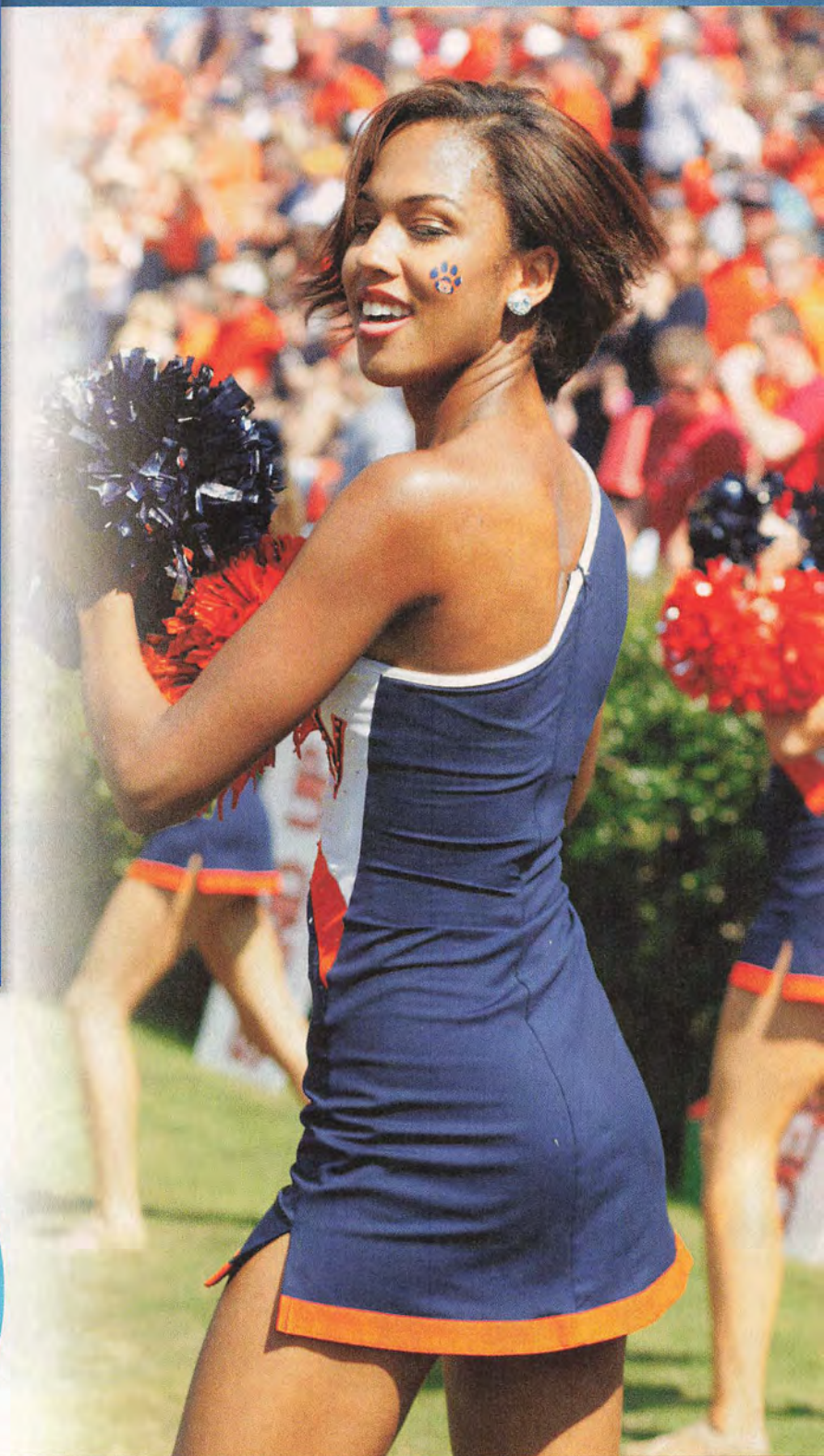


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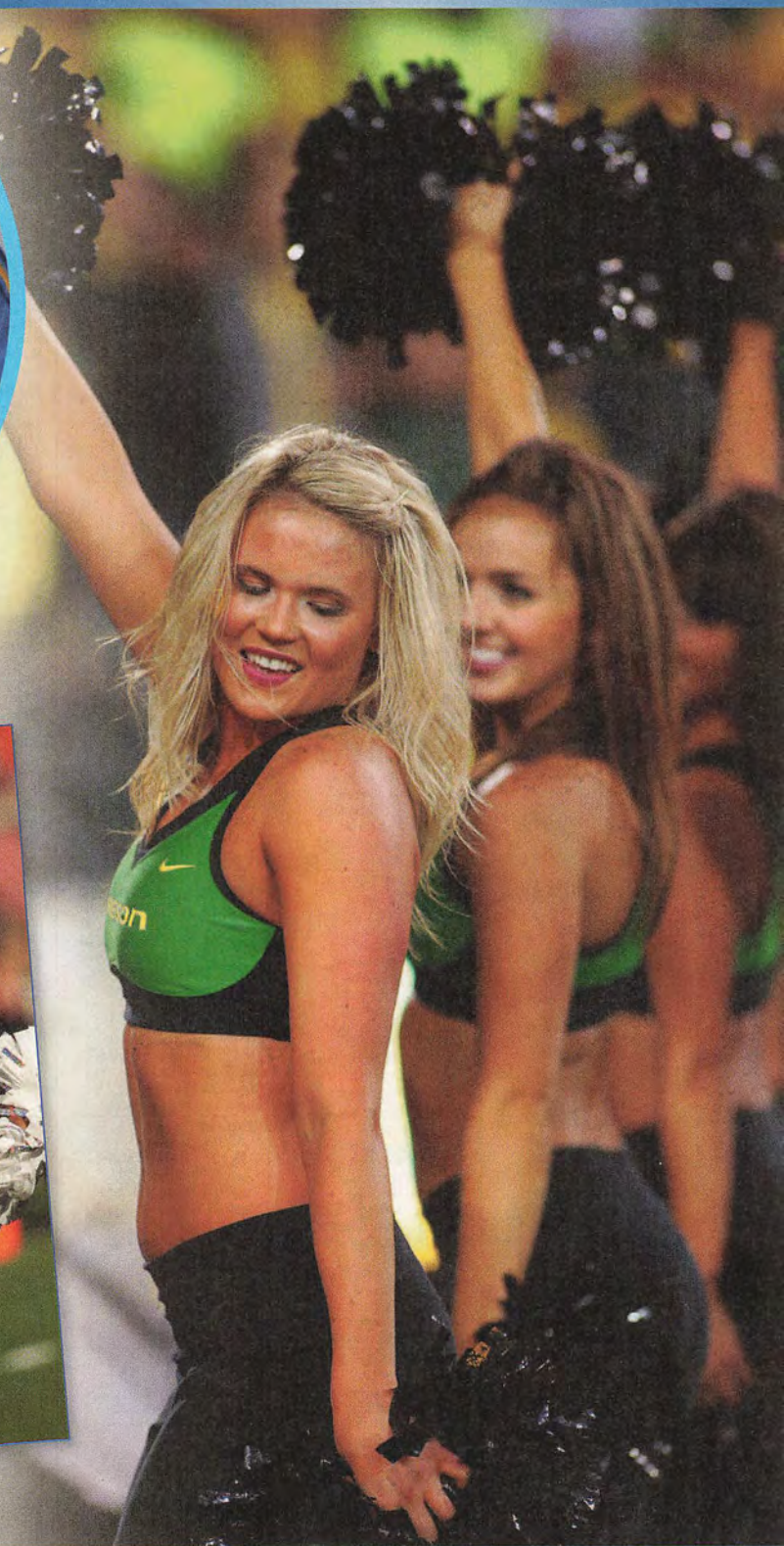
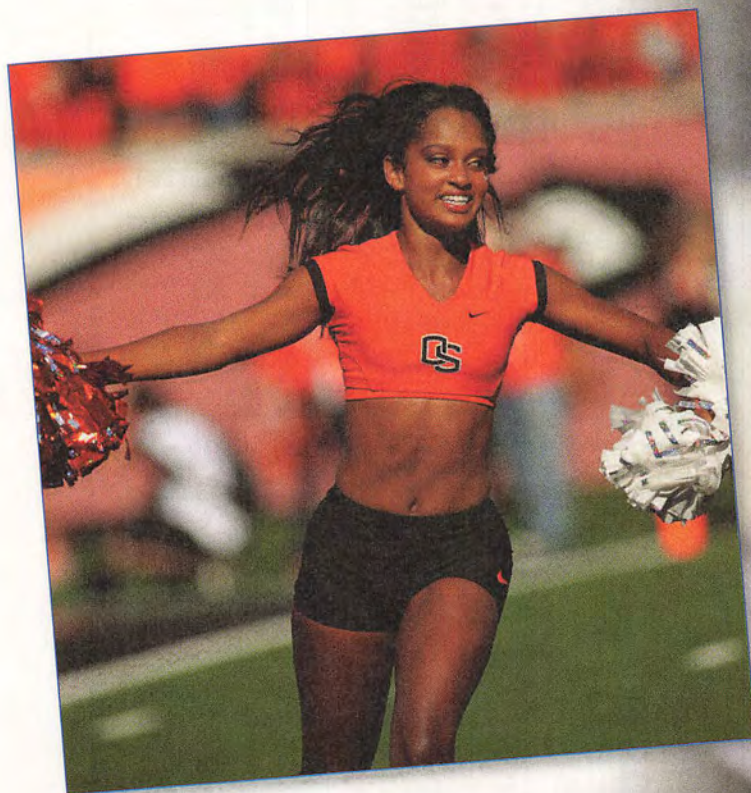
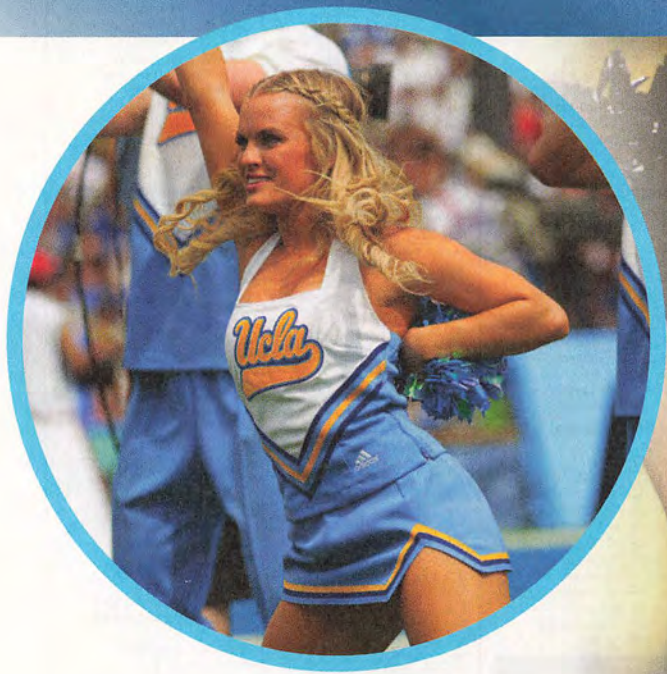


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## ACC

## BOSTON COLLEGE (2-10, 1-7)

Chestnut Hill, MA  
 Aug. 31 Villanova  
 Sept. 6 Wake Forest  
 Sept. 14 at USC  
 Sept. 28 Florida State  
 Oct. 5 Army  
 Oct. 12 at Clemson  
 Oct. 26 at North Carolina  
 Nov. 2 Virginia Tech  
 Nov. 9 at New Mexico State  
 Nov. 16 NC State  
 Nov. 23 at Maryland  
 Nov. 30 at Syracuse

## CLEMSON (11-2, 7-1)

Clemson, SC  
 Aug. 31 Georgia  
 Sept. 7 South Carolina State  
 Sept. 19 at NC State  
 Sept. 28 Wake Forest  
 Oct. 5 at Syracuse  
 Oct. 12 Boston College  
 Oct. 19 Florida State  
 Oct. 26 at Maryland  
 Nov. 2 at Virginia  
 Nov. 14 Georgia Tech  
 Nov. 23 The Citadel  
 Nov. 30 at South Carolina

## DUKE (6-7, 3-5)

Durham, NC  
 Aug. 31 NC Central  
 Sept. 7 at Memphis  
 Sept. 14 Georgia Tech  
 Sept. 21 Pittsburgh  
 Sept. 28 Troy  
 Oct. 12 Navy  
 Oct. 19 at Virginia  
 Oct. 26 at Virginia Tech  
 Nov. 2 NC State  
 Nov. 16 Miami  
 Nov. 23 at Wake Forest  
 Nov. 30 at North Carolina

## FLORIDA STATE (12-2, 7-1)

Tallahassee, FL  
 Sept. 2 at Pittsburgh  
 Sept. 14 Nevada  
 Sept. 21 Bethune-Cookman  
 Sept. 28 at Boston College  
 Oct. 5 Maryland  
 Oct. 19 at Clemson  
 Oct. 26 NC State  
 Nov. 2 Miami  
 Nov. 9 at Wake Forest  
 Nov. 16 Syracuse  
 Nov. 23 Idaho  
 Nov. 30 at Florida

## GEORGIA TECH (7-7, 3-3)

Atlanta, GA  
 Aug. 31 Elon  
 Sept. 14 at Duke  
 Sept. 21 North Carolina  
 Sept. 26 Virginia Tech  
 Oct. 5 at Miami  
 Oct. 12 at BYU  
 Oct. 19 Syracuse  
 Oct. 26 at Virginia  
 Nov. 2 Pittsburgh  
 Nov. 14 at Clemson  
 Nov. 23 Alabama A&M  
 Nov. 30 Georgia

## MARYLAND (4-8, 2-6)

College Park, MD  
 Aug. 31 FIU  
 Sept. 7 Old Dominion  
 Sept. 14 at Connecticut  
 Sept. 21 vs. West Virginia #  
 Oct. 5 at Florida State  
 Oct. 12 Virginia  
 Oct. 19 at Wake Forest  
 Oct. 26 Clemson  
 Nov. 2 Syracuse  
 Nov. 16 at Virginia Tech  
 Nov. 23 Boston College  
 Nov. 30 at NC State

## MIAMI (7-5, 3-3)

Coral Gables, FL  
 Aug. 30 Florida Atlantic  
 Sept. 7 Florida  
 Sept. 21 Savannah State  
 Sept. 28 at South Florida  
 Oct. 5 Georgia Tech  
 Oct. 17 at North Carolina  
 Oct. 26 Wake Forest  
 Nov. 2 at Florida State  
 Nov. 9 Virginia Tech  
 Nov. 16 at Duke  
 Nov. 23 Virginia  
 Nov. 29 at Pittsburgh

## NORTH CAROLINA (8-4, 5-3)

Chapel Hill, NC  
 Aug. 29 at South Carolina  
 Sept. 7 Middle Tennessee  
 Sept. 21 at Georgia Tech  
 Sept. 28 East Carolina  
 Oct. 5 at Virginia Tech  
 Oct. 17 Miami  
 Oct. 26 Boston College  
 Nov. 2 at NC State  
 Nov. 9 Virginia  
 Nov. 16 at Pittsburgh  
 Nov. 23 Old Dominion  
 Nov. 30 Duke

## NC STATE (7-6, 4-4)

Raleigh, NC  
 Aug. 31 Louisiana Tech  
 Sept. 7 Richmond  
 Sept. 19 Clemson  
 Sept. 28 Central Michigan  
 Oct. 5 at Wake Forest  
 Oct. 12 Syracuse  
 Oct. 26 at Florida State  
 Nov. 2 North Carolina  
 Nov. 9 at Duke  
 Nov. 16 at Boston College  
 Nov. 23 East Carolina  
 Nov. 30 Maryland

## PITTSBURGH (6-7, 3-4 Big East)

Pittsburgh, PA  
 Sept. 2 Florida State  
 Sept. 14 New Mexico  
 Sept. 21 at Duke  
 Sept. 28 Virginia  
 Oct. 12 at Virginia Tech  
 Oct. 19 Old Dominion  
 Oct. 26 at Navy  
 Nov. 2 at Georgia Tech  
 Nov. 9 Notre Dame  
 Nov. 16 North Carolina  
 Nov. 23 at Syracuse  
 Nov. 29 Miami

## SYRACUSE (8-5, 5-2 Big East)

Syracuse, NY  
 Aug. 31 vs. Penn State #  
 Sept. 7 at Northwestern  
 Sept. 14 Wagner  
 Sept. 21 Tulane  
 Oct. 5 Clemson  
 Oct. 12 at NC State  
 Oct. 19 at Georgia Tech  
 Nov. 2 Wake Forest  
 Nov. 9 at Maryland  
 Nov. 16 at Florida State  
 Nov. 23 Pittsburgh  
 Nov. 30 Boston College

## VIRGINIA (4-8, 2-6)

Charlottesville, VA  
 Aug. 31 BYU  
 Sept. 7 Oregon  
 Sept. 21 VMI  
 Sept. 28 at Pittsburgh  
 Oct. 5 Ball State  
 Oct. 12 at Maryland  
 Oct. 19 Duke  
 Oct. 26 Georgia Tech  
 Nov. 2 Clemson  
 Nov. 9 at North Carolina  
 Nov. 23 at Miami  
 Nov. 30 Virginia Tech

## VIRGINIA TECH (7-6, 4-4)

Blacksburg, VA  
 Aug. 31 vs. Alabama #  
 Sept. 7 Western Carolina  
 Sept. 14 at East Carolina  
 Sept. 21 Marshall  
 Sept. 26 at Georgia Tech  
 Oct. 5 North Carolina  
 Oct. 12 Pittsburgh  
 Oct. 26 Duke  
 Nov. 2 at Boston College  
 Nov. 9 at Miami  
 Nov. 16 Maryland  
 Nov. 30 at Virginia

## WAKE FOREST (5-7, 3-5)

Winston-Salem, NC  
 Aug. 29 Presbyterian  
 Sept. 6 at Boston College  
 Sept. 14 UL Monroe  
 Sept. 21 at Army  
 Sept. 28 at Clemson  
 Oct. 5 NC State  
 Oct. 19 Maryland  
 Oct. 26 at Miami  
 Nov. 2 at Syracuse  
 Nov. 9 Florida State  
 Nov. 23 Duke  
 Nov. 30 at Vanderbilt

## AMERICAN

## CINCINNATI (10-3, 5-2)

Cincinnati, OH  
 Aug. 31 Purdue  
 Sept. 7 at Illinois  
 Sept. 14 Northwestern State  
 Sept. 21 at Miami (Ohio)  
 Oct. 5 at South Florida  
 Oct. 11 Temple  
 Oct. 19 Connecticut  
 Oct. 30 at Memphis  
 Nov. 9 SMU  
 Nov. 16 at Rutgers  
 Nov. 23 at Houston  
 Dec. 5 Louisville

## CONNECTICUT (5-7, 2-5)

Storrs, CT  
 Aug. 29 Towson  
 Sept. 14 Maryland  
 Sept. 21 Michigan  
 Sept. 28 at Buffalo  
 Oct. 12 South Florida  
 Oct. 19 at Cincinnati  
 Oct. 26 at UCF  
 Nov. 8 Louisville  
 Nov. 16 at SMU  
 Nov. 23 at Temple  
 Nov. 30 Rutgers  
 Dec. 7 Memphis

## HOUSTON (5-7, 4-4 C-USA)

Houston, TX  
 Aug. 30 Southern  
 Sept. 7 at Temple  
 Sept. 21 at Rice  
 Sept. 28 at UTSA  
 Oct. 12 Memphis  
 Oct. 19 BYU  
 Oct. 26 at Rutgers  
 Oct. 31 South Florida  
 Nov. 9 at UCF  
 Nov. 16 at Louisville  
 Nov. 23 Cincinnati  
 Nov. 29 SMU

## LOUISVILLE (11-2, 5-2)

Louisville, KY  
 Aug. 31 Ohio  
 Sept. 7 Eastern Kentucky  
 Sept. 14 at Kentucky  
 Sept. 21 FIU  
 Oct. 5 at Temple  
 Oct. 10 Rutgers  
 Oct. 18 UCF  
 Oct. 26 at South Florida  
 Nov. 8 at Connecticut  
 Nov. 16 Houston  
 Nov. 23 Memphis  
 Dec. 5 at Cincinnati

## MEMPHIS (4-8, 4-4 C-USA)

Memphis, TN  
 Sept. 7 Duke  
 Sept. 14 at Middle Tennessee  
 Sept. 21 Arkansas State  
 Oct. 5 UCF  
 Oct. 12 at Houston  
 Oct. 19 SMU  
 Oct. 30 Cincinnati  
 Nov. 9 TN-Martin  
 Nov. 16 at South Florida  
 Nov. 23 at Louisville  
 Nov. 30 Temple  
 Dec. 7 at Connecticut

## RUTGERS (9-4, 5-2)

New Brunswick, NJ  
 Aug. 29 at Fresno State  
 Sept. 7 Norfolk State  
 Sept. 14 Eastern Michigan  
 Sept. 21 Arkansas  
 Oct. 5 SMU  
 Oct. 10 at Louisville  
 Oct. 26 Houston  
 Nov. 2 Temple  
 Nov. 16 Cincinnati  
 Nov. 21 at UCF  
 Nov. 30 at Connecticut  
 Dec. 7 South Florida

## SMU (7-6, 5-3 C-USA)

Dallas, TX  
 Aug. 30 Texas Tech  
 Sept. 7 Montana State  
 Sept. 21 at Texas A&M  
 Sept. 28 at TCU  
 Oct. 5 Rutgers  
 Oct. 19 at Memphis  
 Oct. 26 Temple  
 Nov. 9 at Cincinnati  
 Nov. 16 Connecticut  
 Nov. 23 at South Florida  
 Nov. 29 at Houston  
 Dec. 7 UCF

## SOUTH FLORIDA (3-9, 1-6)

Tampa, FL  
 Aug. 31 McNeese State  
 Sept. 7 at Michigan State  
 Sept. 14 Florida Atlantic  
 Sept. 28 Miami  
 Oct. 5 Cincinnati  
 Oct. 12 at Connecticut  
 Oct. 26 Louisville  
 Oct. 31 at Houston  
 Nov. 16 Memphis  
 Nov. 23 SMU  
 Nov. 29 at UCF  
 Dec. 7 at Rutgers

## TEMPLE (4-7, 2-5)

Philadelphia, PA  
 Aug. 31 at Notre Dame  
 Sept. 7 Houston  
 Sept. 14 Fordham  
 Sept. 28 at Idaho  
 Oct. 5 Louisville  
 Oct. 11 at Cincinnati  
 Oct. 19 Army  
 Oct. 26 at SMU  
 Nov. 2 at Rutgers  
 Nov. 16 UCF  
 Nov. 23 Connecticut  
 Nov. 30 at Memphis

## UCF (10-4, 7-1 C-USA)

Orlando, FL  
 Aug. 29 Akron  
 Sept. 7 at FIU  
 Sept. 14 at Penn State  
 Sept. 28 South Carolina  
 Oct. 5 at Memphis  
 Oct. 18 at Louisville  
 Oct. 26 Connecticut  
 Nov. 9 Houston  
 Nov. 16 at Temple  
 Nov. 21 Rutgers  
 Nov. 29 South Florida  
 Dec. 7 at SMU

## BIG TEN

## ILLINOIS (12-10, 0-8)

Champaign, IL  
 Aug. 31 Southern Illinois  
 Sept. 7 Cincinnati  
 Sept. 14 vs. Washington #  
 Sept. 28 Miami (Ohio)  
 Oct. 5 at Nebraska  
 Oct. 19 Wisconsin  
 Oct. 26 Michigan State  
 Nov. 2 at Penn State  
 Nov. 9 at Indiana  
 Nov. 16 Ohio State  
 Nov. 23 at Purdue  
 Nov. 30 Northwestern

## INDIANA (4-8, 3-5)

Bloomington, IN  
 Aug. 29 Indiana State  
 Sept. 7 Navy  
 Sept. 14 Bowling Green  
 Sept. 21 Missouri  
 Oct. 5 Penn State  
 Oct. 12 at Michigan State  
 Oct. 19 at Michigan  
 Nov. 2 Minnesota  
 Nov. 9 Illinois  
 Nov. 16 at Wisconsin  
 Nov. 23 at Ohio State  
 Nov. 30 Purdue

## IOWA (4-8, 2-6)

Iowa City, IA  
 Aug. 31 Northern Illinois  
 Sept. 7 Missouri State  
 Sept. 14 at Iowa State  
 Sept. 21 Western Michigan  
 Sept. 28 at Minnesota  
 Oct. 5 Michigan State  
 Oct. 19 at Ohio State  
 Oct. 26 Northwestern  
 Nov. 2 Wisconsin  
 Nov. 9 at Purdue  
 Nov. 23 Michigan  
 Nov. 29 at Nebraska

## MICHIGAN (8-5, 6-2)

Ann Arbor, MI  
 Aug. 31 Central Michigan  
 Sept. 7 Notre Dame  
 Sept. 14 Akron  
 Sept. 21 at Connecticut  
 Oct. 5 Minnesota  
 Oct. 12 at Penn State  
 Oct. 19 Indiana  
 Nov. 2 at Michigan State  
 Nov. 9 Nebraska  
 Nov. 16 at Northwestern  
 Nov. 23 at Iowa  
 Nov. 30 Ohio State

## MICHIGAN STATE (7-6, 3-5)

East Lansing, MI  
 Aug. 30 Western Michigan  
 Sept. 7 Buffalo  
 Sept. 14 Youngstown State  
 Sept. 21 at Notre Dame  
 Oct. 5 at Iowa  
 Oct. 12 Indiana  
 Oct. 19 Purdue  
 Oct. 26 at Illinois  
 Nov. 2 Michigan  
 Nov. 16 at Nebraska  
 Nov. 23 at Northwestern  
 Nov. 30 Minnesota

## MINNESOTA (6-7, 2-6)

Minneapolis, MN  
 Aug. 29 UNLV  
 Sept. 7 at New Mexico State  
 Sept. 14 Western Illinois  
 Sept. 21 San Jose State  
 Sept. 28 Iowa  
 Oct. 5 at Michigan  
 Oct. 19 at Northwestern  
 Oct. 26 Nebraska  
 Nov. 2 at Indiana  
 Nov. 9 Penn State  
 Nov. 23 Wisconsin  
 Nov. 30 at Michigan State

## NEBRASKA (10-4, 7-1)

Lincoln, NE  
 Aug. 31 Wyoming  
 Sept. 7 Southern Miss  
 Sept. 14 UCLA  
 Sept. 21 South Dakota St  
 Oct. 5 Illinois  
 Oct. 12 at Purdue  
 Oct. 26 at Minnesota  
 Nov. 2 Northwestern  
 Nov. 9 at Michigan  
 Nov. 16 Michigan State  
 Nov. 23 at Penn State  
 Nov. 29 Iowa

## NORTHWESTERN (10-3, 5-3)

Evanston, IL  
 Aug. 31 at California  
 Sept. 7 Syracuse  
 Sept. 14 Western Michigan  
 Sept. 21 Maine  
 Oct. 5 Ohio State  
 Oct. 12 at Wisconsin  
 Oct. 19 Minnesota  
 Oct. 26 at Iowa  
 Nov. 2 at Nebraska  
 Nov. 16 Michigan  
 Nov. 23 Michigan State  
 Nov. 30 at Illinois

## OHIO STATE (12-0, 8-0)

Columbus, OH  
 Aug. 31 Buffalo  
 Sept. 7 San Diego State  
 Sept. 14 at California  
 Sept. 21 Florida A&M  
 Sept. 28 Wisconsin  
 Oct. 5 at Northwestern  
 Oct. 19 Iowa  
 Oct. 26 Penn State  
 Nov. 2 at Purdue  
 Nov. 16 at Illinois  
 Nov. 23 Indiana  
 Nov. 30 at Michigan

## PENN STATE (8-4, 6-2)

University Park, PA  
 Aug. 31 vs. Syracuse #  
 Sept. 7 Eastern Michigan  
 Sept. 14 UCF  
 Sept. 21 Kent State  
 Oct. 5 at Indiana  
 Oct. 12 Michigan  
 Oct. 26 at Ohio State  
 Nov. 2 Illinois  
 Nov. 9 at Minnesota  
 Nov. 16 Purdue  
 Nov. 23 Nebraska  
 Nov. 30 at Wisconsin

## PURDUE (6-7, 3-5)

West Lafayette, IN  
 Aug. 31 at Cincinnati  
 Sept. 7 Indiana State  
 Sept. 14 Notre Dame  
 Sept. 21 at Wisconsin  
 Sept. 28 Northern Illinois  
 Oct. 12 Nebraska  
 Oct. 19 at Michigan State  
 Nov. 2 Ohio State  
 Nov. 9 Iowa  
 Nov. 16 at Penn State  
 Nov. 23 Illinois  
 Nov. 30 at Indiana

## WISCONSIN (8-6, 4-4)

Madison, WI  
 Aug. 31 Massachusetts  
 Sept. 7 Tennessee Tech  
 Sept. 14 at Arizona State  
 Sept. 21 Purdue  
 Sept. 28 at Ohio State  
 Oct. 12 Northwestern  
 Oct. 19 at Illinois  
 Nov. 2 at Iowa  
 Nov. 9 BYU  
 Nov. 16 Indiana  
 Nov. 23 at Minnesota  
 Nov. 30 Penn State

## BIG 12

## BAYLOR (8-5, 4-5)

Waco, TX  
 Aug. 31 Wofford  
 Sept. 7 Buffalo  
 Sept. 21 UL Monroe  
 Oct. 5 West Virginia  
 Oct. 12 at Kansas State  
 Oct. 19 Iowa State  
 Oct. 26 at Kansas  
 Nov. 7 Oklahoma  
 Nov. 16 vs. Texas Tech #  
 Nov. 23 at Oklahoma State  
 Nov. 30 at TCU  
 Dec. 7 Texas

## IOWA STATE (6-7, 3-6)

Ames, IA  
 Aug. 31 Northern Iowa  
 Sept. 14 Iowa  
 Sept. 26 at Tulsa  
 Oct. 3 Texas  
 Oct. 12 at Texas Tech  
 Oct. 19 at Baylor  
 Oct. 26 Oklahoma State  
 Nov. 2 at Kansas State  
 Nov. 9 TCU  
 Nov. 16 at Oklahoma  
 Nov. 23 Kansas  
 Nov. 29 at West Virginia

## KANSAS (11-11, 0-9)

Lawrence, KS  
 Sept. 7 South Dakota  
 Sept. 14 at Rice  
 Sept. 21 Louisiana Tech  
 Oct. 5 Texas Tech  
 Oct. 12 at TCU  
 Oct. 19 Oklahoma  
 Oct. 26 Baylor  
 Nov. 2 at Texas  
 Nov. 9 at Oklahoma State  
 Nov. 16 West Virginia  
 Nov. 23 at Iowa State  
 Nov. 30 Kansas State

## KANSAS STATE (11-2, 8-1)

Manhattan, KS  
 Aug. 31 North Dakota State  
 Sept. 7 UL Lafayette  
 Sept. 14 Massachusetts  
 Sept. 21 at Texas  
 Oct. 5 at Oklahoma State  
 Oct. 12 Baylor  
 Oct. 26 West Virginia  
 Nov. 2 Iowa State  
 Nov. 9 at Texas Tech  
 Nov. 16 TCU  
 Nov. 23 Oklahoma  
 Nov. 30 at Kansas

## OKLAHOMA (10-3, 8-1)

Norman, OK  
 Aug. 31 UL Monroe  
 Sept. 7 West Virginia  
 Sept. 14 Tulsa  
 Sept. 28 at Notre Dame  
 Oct. 5 TCU  
 Oct. 12 vs. Texas #  
 Oct. 19 at Kansas  
 Oct. 26 Texas Tech  
 Nov. 7 at Baylor  
 Nov. 16 Iowa State  
 Nov. 23 at Kansas State  
 Dec. 7 at Oklahoma State

## OKLAHOMA STATE (8-5, 4-4)

Stillwater, OK  
 Aug. 31 vs. Mississippi St #  
 Sept. 7 at UTSA  
 Sept. 14 Lamar  
 Sept. 28 at West Virginia  
 Oct. 5 Kansas State  
 Oct. 19 TCU  
 Oct. 26 at Iowa State  
 Nov. 2 at Texas Tech  
 Nov. 9 Kansas  
 Nov. 16 at Texas  
 Nov. 23 Baylor  
 Dec. 7 Oklahoma



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# 2013 FBS SCHEDULES

## TCU (7-6, 4-5)

Fort Worth, TX
Aug. 31 vs. LSU #
Sept. 7 SE Louisiana
Sept. 12 at Texas Tech
Sept. 28 SMU
Oct. 5 at Oklahoma
Oct. 12 Kansas
Oct. 19 at Oklahoma State
Oct. 26 Texas
Nov. 2 West Virginia
Nov. 9 at Iowa State
Nov. 16 at Kansas State
Nov. 30 Baylor
#Arlington, TX

## TEXAS (9-4, 5-4)

Austin, TX
Aug. 31 New Mexico State
Sept. 7 at BYU
Sept. 14 Ole Miss
Sept. 21 Kansas State
Oct. 3 at Iowa State
Oct. 12 vs. Oklahoma #
Oct. 26 at TCU
Nov. 2 Kansas
Nov. 9 at West Virginia
Nov. 16 Oklahoma State
Nov. 28 Texas Tech
Dec. 7 at Baylor
#Dallas, TX

## TEXAS TECH (8-5, 4-5)

Lubbock, TX
Aug. 30 at SMU
Sept. 7 Stephen F. Austin
Sept. 12 TCU
Sept. 21 Texas State
Oct. 5 at Kansas
Oct. 12 Iowa State
Oct. 19 at West Virginia
Oct. 26 at Oklahoma
Nov. 2 Oklahoma State
Nov. 9 Kansas State
Nov. 16 vs. Baylor #
Nov. 28 at Texas
#Arlington, TX

## WEST VIRGINIA (7-6, 4-5)

Morgantown, WV
Aug. 31 William & Mary
Sept. 7 at Oklahoma
Sept. 14 Georgia State
Sept. 21 vs. Maryland #
Sept. 28 Oklahoma State
Oct. 5 at Baylor
Oct. 19 Texas Tech
Oct. 26 at Kansas State
Nov. 2 at TCU
Nov. 9 Texas
Nov. 16 at Kansas
Nov. 29 Iowa State
#Baltimore, MD

## C-USA

### EAST CAROLINA (8-5, 7-1)

Greenville, NC
Aug. 31 Old Dominion
Sept. 5 Florida Atlantic
Sept. 14 Virginia Tech
Sept. 28 at North Carolina
Oct. 5 at Middle Tennessee
Oct. 12 at Tulane
Oct. 19 Southern Miss
Nov. 2 at FIU
Nov. 9 Tulsa
Nov. 16 UAB
Nov. 23 at NC State
Nov. 30 at Marshall

### FLORIDA ATLANTIC (3-9, 2-6 Sun Belt)

Boca Raton, FL
Aug. 30 at Miami
Sept. 5 at East Carolina
Sept. 14 at South Florida
Sept. 21 Middle Tennessee
Sept. 28 at Rice
Oct. 5 at UAB
Oct. 12 Marshall
Oct. 26 at Auburn
Nov. 2 Tulane
Nov. 16 at Southern Miss
Nov. 23 New Mexico State
Nov. 29 FIU

## FIU (3-9, 2-6 Sun Belt)

Miami, FL
Aug. 31 at Maryland
Sept. 7 UCF
Sept. 14 Bethune-Cookman
Sept. 21 at Louisville
Oct. 5 at Southern Miss
Oct. 12 UAB
Oct. 26 Louisiana Tech
Nov. 2 East Carolina
Nov. 9 at Middle Tennessee
Nov. 16 at UTEP
Nov. 23 Marshall
Nov. 29 at Florida Atlantic

## LOUISIANA TECH (9-3, 4-2 WAC)

Ruston, LA
Aug. 31 at NC State
Sept. 7 Lamar
Sept. 12 Tulane
Sept. 21 at Kansas
Sept. 28 vs. Army #
Oct. 5 at UTEP
Oct. 19 North Texas
Oct. 26 at FIU
Nov. 9 Southern Miss
Nov. 16 at Rice
Nov. 23 Tulsa
Nov. 30 at UTSA
#Dallas, TX

## MARSHALL (5-7, 4-4)

Huntington, WV
Aug. 31 Miami (Ohio)
Sept. 7 Gardner-Webb
Sept. 14 at Ohio
Sept. 21 at Virginia Tech
Oct. 5 UTSA
Oct. 12 at Florida Atlantic
Oct. 24 at Middle Tennessee
Nov. 2 Southern Miss
Nov. 9 UAB
Nov. 14 at Tulsa
Nov. 23 at FIU
Nov. 30 East Carolina

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE (8-4, 6-2 Sun Belt)

Murfreesboro, TN
Aug. 29 Western Carolina
Sept. 7 at North Carolina
Sept. 14 Memphis
Sept. 21 at Florida Atlantic
Sept. 27 at BYU
Oct. 5 East Carolina
Oct. 12 at North Texas
Oct. 24 Marshall
Nov. 2 at UAB
Nov. 9 FIU
Nov. 23 at Southern Miss
Nov. 30 UTEP

## NORTH TEXAS (4-8, 3-5 Sun Belt)

Denton, TX
Aug. 31 Idaho
Sept. 7 at Ohio
Sept. 14 Ball State
Sept. 21 at Georgia
Oct. 5 at Tulane
Oct. 12 Middle Tennessee
Oct. 19 at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 26 at Southern Miss
Nov. 2 Rice
Nov. 9 UTEP
Nov. 23 UTSA
Nov. 30 at Tulsa

## RICE (7-6, 4-4)

Houston, TX
Aug. 31 at Texas A&M
Sept. 14 Kansas
Sept. 21 Houston
Sept. 28 Florida Atlantic
Oct. 5 at Tulsa
Oct. 12 at UTSA
Oct. 19 at New Mexico State
Oct. 26 UTEP
Nov. 2 at North Texas
Nov. 16 Louisiana Tech
Nov. 23 at UAB
Nov. 30 Tulane

## SOUTHERN MISS (10-12, 0-8)

Hattiesburg, MS
Aug. 31 Texas State
Sept. 7 at Nebraska
Sept. 14 at Arkansas
Sept. 21 at Boise State
Oct. 5 FIU
Oct. 19 at East Carolina
Oct. 26 North Texas
Nov. 2 at Marshall
Nov. 9 at Louisiana Tech
Nov. 16 Florida Atlantic
Nov. 23 Middle Tennessee
Nov. 30 at UAB

## TULANE (2-10, 2-6)

New Orleans, LA
Aug. 31 Jackson State
Sept. 7 South Alabama
Sept. 12 at Louisiana Tech
Sept. 21 at Syracuse
Sept. 28 at UL Monroe
Oct. 5 North Texas
Oct. 12 East Carolina
Oct. 26 Tulsa
Nov. 2 at Florida Atlantic
Nov. 9 at UTSA
Nov. 23 UTEP
Nov. 30 at Rice

## TULSA (11-3, 7-1)

Tulsa, OK
Aug. 29 at Bowling Green
Sept. 7 Colorado State
Sept. 14 at Oklahoma
Sept. 26 Iowa State
Oct. 5 Rice
Oct. 12 at UTEP
Oct. 26 at Tulane
Nov. 2 UTSA
Nov. 9 at East Carolina
Nov. 14 Marshall
Nov. 23 at Louisiana Tech
Nov. 30 North Texas

## UAB (3-9, 2-6)

Birmingham, AL
Aug. 31 at Troy
Sept. 7 at LSU
Sept. 21 Northwestern State
Sept. 28 at Vanderbilt
Oct. 5 Florida Atlantic
Oct. 12 at FIU
Oct. 26 at UTSA
Nov. 2 Middle Tennessee
Nov. 9 at Marshall
Nov. 16 at East Carolina
Nov. 23 Rice
Nov. 30 Southern Miss

## UTEP (3-9, 2-6)

El Paso, TX
Sept. 7 New Mexico
Sept. 14 at New Mexico State
Sept. 21 UTSA
Sept. 28 at Colorado State
Oct. 5 Louisiana Tech
Oct. 12 Tulsa
Oct. 26 at Rice
Nov. 2 at Texas A&M
Nov. 9 at North Texas
Nov. 16 FIU
Nov. 23 at Tulane
Nov. 30 at Middle Tennessee

## UTSA (8-4, 3-3 WAC)

San Antonio, TX
Aug. 31 at New Mexico
Sept. 7 Oklahoma State
Sept. 14 at Arizona
Sept. 21 at UTEP
Sept. 28 Houston
Oct. 5 at Marshall
Oct. 12 Rice
Oct. 26 UAB
Nov. 2 at Tulsa
Nov. 9 Tulane
Nov. 23 at North Texas
Nov. 30 Louisiana Tech

## MAC

### AKRON (11-11, 0-8)

Akron, OH
Aug. 29 at UCF
Sept. 7 James Madison
Sept. 14 at Michigan
Sept. 21 UL Lafayette
Sept. 28 at Bowling Green
Oct. 5 Ohio
Oct. 12 at Northern Illinois
Oct. 19 at Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 26 Ball State
Nov. 2 Kent State
Nov. 16 at Massachusetts
Nov. 29 Toledo

### BALL STATE (9-4, 6-2)

Muncie, IN
Aug. 29 Illinois State
Sept. 7 Army
Sept. 14 at North Texas
Sept. 21 at Eastern Michigan
Sept. 28 Toledo
Oct. 5 at Virginia
Oct. 12 Kent State
Oct. 19 at Western Michigan
Oct. 26 at Akron
Nov. 6 Central Michigan
Nov. 13 at Northern Illinois
Nov. 29 Miami (Ohio)

## BOWLING GREEN (8-5, 6-2)

Bowling Green, OH
Aug. 29 Tulsa
Sept. 7 at Kent State
Sept. 14 at Indiana
Sept. 21 Murray State
Sept. 28 Akron
Oct. 5 Massachusetts
Oct. 12 at Mississippi State
Oct. 26 Toledo
Nov. 5 at Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 12 Ohio
Nov. 23 at Eastern Michigan
Nov. 29 at Buffalo

## BUFFALO (4-8, 3-5)

Buffalo, NY
Aug. 31 at Ohio State
Sept. 7 at Baylor
Sept. 14 Stony Brook
Sept. 28 Connecticut
Oct. 5 Eastern Michigan
Oct. 12 at Western Michigan
Oct. 19 Massachusetts
Oct. 26 at Kent State
Nov. 5 Ohio
Nov. 12 at Toledo
Nov. 19 at Miami
Nov. 29 Bowling Green

## CENTRAL MICHIGAN (7-6, 4-4)

Mt. Pleasant, MI
Aug. 31 at Michigan
Sept. 7 New Hampshire
Sept. 14 at UNLV
Sept. 21 Toledo
Sept. 28 at NC State
Oct. 5 at Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 12 at Ohio
Oct. 19 Northern Illinois
Nov. 6 at Ball State
Nov. 16 at Western Michigan
Nov. 23 Massachusetts
Nov. 29 Eastern Michigan

## EASTERN MICHIGAN (2-10, 1-7)

Ypsilanti, MI
Aug. 31 Howard
Sept. 7 at Penn State
Sept. 14 at Rutgers
Sept. 21 Ball State
Oct. 5 at Buffalo
Oct. 12 at Army
Oct. 19 Ohio
Oct. 26 at Northern Illinois
Nov. 2 at Toledo
Nov. 9 Western Michigan
Nov. 23 Bowling Green
Nov. 29 at Central Michigan

## KENT STATE (11-3, 8-0)

Kent, OH
Aug. 29 Liberty
Sept. 7 Bowling Green
Sept. 14 at LSU
Sept. 21 at Penn State
Sept. 28 at Western Michigan
Oct. 5 Northern Illinois
Oct. 12 at Ball State
Oct. 19 at South Alabama
Oct. 26 Buffalo
Nov. 2 at Akron
Nov. 13 Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 19 at Ohio

## MASSACHUSETTS (11-11, 1-7)

Amherst, MA*
Aug. 31 at Wisconsin
Sept. 7 Maine
Sept. 14 at Kansas State
Sept. 21 Vanderbilt
Oct. 5 at Bowling Green
Oct. 12 Miami (Ohio)
Oct. 19 at Buffalo
Oct. 26 Western Michigan
Nov. 2 Northern Illinois
Nov. 16 Akron
Nov. 23 at Central Michigan
Nov. 29 at Ohio

\*All home games at Gillette Field

## MIAMI (OH) (4-8, 3-5)

Oxford, OH
Aug. 31 at Marshall
Sept. 7 at Kentucky
Sept. 14 at Alabama
Sept. 21 Cincinnati
Sept. 28 at Illinois
Oct. 5 Central Michigan
Oct. 12 at Massachusetts
Oct. 19 Akron
Oct. 26 at Ohio
Nov. 5 Bowling Green
Nov. 13 at Kent State
Nov. 19 Buffalo
Nov. 29 at Ball State

## NORTHERN ILLINOIS (12-2, 8-0)

Dekalb, IL
Aug. 31 at Iowa
Sept. 14 at Idaho
Sept. 21 Eastern Illinois
Sept. 28 at Purdue
Oct. 5 at Kent State
Oct. 12 Akron
Oct. 19 at Central Michigan
Oct. 26 Eastern Michigan
Nov. 2 at Massachusetts
Nov. 13 Ball State
Nov. 20 at Toledo
Nov. 26 Western Michigan

## OHIO (9-4, 4-4)

Athens, OH
Aug. 31 at Louisville
Sept. 7 North Texas
Sept. 14 Marshall
Sept. 21 Austin Peay
Oct. 5 at Akron
Oct. 12 Central Michigan
Oct. 19 at Eastern Michigan
Oct. 26 Miami (Ohio)
Nov. 5 at Buffalo
Nov. 12 at Bowling Green
Nov. 19 Kent State
Nov. 29 Massachusetts

## TOLEDO (9-4, 6-2)

Toledo, OH
Aug. 31 at Florida
Sept. 7 at Missouri
Sept. 14 Eastern Washington
Sept. 21 at Central Michigan
Sept. 28 at Ball State
Oct. 5 Western Michigan
Oct. 19 Navy
Oct. 26 at Bowling Green
Nov. 2 Eastern Michigan
Nov. 12 Buffalo
Nov. 20 Northern Illinois
Nov. 29 at Akron

## WESTERN MICHIGAN (4-8, 2-6)

Kalamazoo, MI
Aug. 31 at Michigan State
Sept. 7 Nicholls State
Sept. 14 at Northwestern
Sept. 21 at Iowa
Sept. 28 Kent State
Oct. 5 at Toledo
Oct. 12 Buffalo
Oct. 19 Ball State
Oct. 26 at Massachusetts
Nov. 9 at Eastern Michigan
Nov. 16 Central Michigan
Nov. 26 at Northern Illinois

## MOUNTAIN WEST

### AIR FORCE (6-7, 5-3)

Colorado Springs, CO
Aug. 31 Colgate
Sept. 7 Utah State
Sept. 13 at Boise State
Sept. 21 Wyoming
Sept. 28 at Nevada
Oct. 5 at Navy
Oct. 10 San Diego State
Oct. 26 Notre Dame
Nov. 2 Army
Nov. 8 at New Mexico
Nov. 21 UNLV
Nov. 30 at Colorado State

### BOISE STATE (11-2, 7-1)

Boise, ID
Aug. 31 at Washington
Sept. 7 Tennessee-Martin
Sept. 13 Air Force
Sept. 20 at Fresno State
Sept. 28 Southern Miss
Oct. 12 at Utah State
Oct. 19 Nevada
Oct. 25 at BYU
Nov. 2 at Colorado State
Nov. 16 Wyoming
Nov. 23 at San Diego State
Nov. 30 New Mexico

### COLORADO STATE (4-8, 3-5)

Fort Collins, CO
Sept. 1 vs. Colorado #
Sept. 7 at Tulsa
Sept. 14 Cal Poly
Sept. 21 at Alabama
Sept. 28 UTEP
Oct. 12 San Jose State
Oct. 19 at Wyoming
Oct. 26 at Hawaii
Nov. 2 Boise State
Nov. 9 Nevada
Nov. 16 at New Mexico
Nov. 23 at Utah State
Nov. 30 Air Force
#Denver, CO

## FRESNO STATE (9-4, 7-1)

Fresno, CA
Aug. 29 Rutgers
Sept. 7 Cal Poly
Sept. 14 at Colorado
Sept. 20 Boise State
Sept. 28 at Hawaii
Oct. 5 at Idaho
Oct. 19 UNLV
Oct. 26 at San Diego State
Nov. 2 Nevada
Nov. 9 at Wyoming
Nov. 23 New Mexico
Nov. 29 at San Jose State

## HAWAII (3-9, 1-7)

Honolulu, HI
Aug. 29 USC
Sept. 7 at Oregon State
Sept. 21 at Nevada
Sept. 28 Fresno State
Oct. 5 San Jose State
Oct. 12 at UNLV
Oct. 26 Colorado State
Nov. 2 at Utah State
Nov. 9 at Navy
Nov. 16 San Diego State
Nov. 23 at Wyoming
Nov. 30 Army

## NEVADA (7-6, 4-4)

Reno, NV
Aug. 31 at UCLA
Sept. 7 UC Davis
Sept. 14 at Florida State
Sept. 21 Hawaii
Sept. 28 Air Force
Oct. 4 at San Diego State
Oct. 19 at Boise State
Oct. 26 UNLV
Nov. 2 at Fresno State
Nov. 9 at Colorado State
Nov. 16 San Jose State
Nov. 30 BYU

## NEW MEXICO (4-9, 1-7)

Albuquerque, NM
Aug. 31 UTSA
Sept. 7 at UTEP
Sept. 14 at Pittsburgh
Sept. 28 UNLV
Oct. 5 New Mexico State
Oct. 12 at Wyoming
Oct. 19 Utah State
Nov. 2 at San Diego State
Nov. 8 Air Force
Nov. 16 Colorado State
Nov. 23 at Fresno State
Nov. 30 at Boise State

## SAN DIEGO STATE (9-4, 7-1)

San Diego, CA
Aug. 31 Eastern Illinois
Sept. 7 at Ohio State
Sept. 21 Oregon State
Sept. 28 at New Mexico State
Oct. 4 Nevada
Oct. 10 at Air Force
Oct. 26 Fresno State
Nov. 2 New Mexico
Nov. 9 at San Jose State
Nov. 16 at Hawaii
Nov. 23 Boise State
Nov. 30 at UNLV



**UTAH STATE (11-2, 6-0 WAC)**

Logan, UT	
Aug. 29	at Utah
Sept. 7	at Air Force
Sept. 14	Weber State
Sept. 21	at USC
Sept. 27	at San Jose State
Oct. 4	BYU
Oct. 12	Boise State
Oct. 19	at New Mexico
Nov. 2	Hawaii
Nov. 9	at UNLV
Nov. 23	Colorado State
Nov. 30	Wyoming

**WYOMING (4-8, 3-5)**

Laramie, WY	
Aug. 31	at Nebraska
Sept. 7	Idaho
Sept. 14	Northern Colorado
Sept. 21	at Air Force
Sept. 28	at Texas State
Oct. 12	New Mexico
Oct. 19	Colorado State
Oct. 26	at San Jose State
Nov. 9	Fresno State
Nov. 16	at Boise State
Nov. 23	Hawaii
Nov. 30	at Utah State

**PAC-12**

**ARIZONA (8-5, 4-5)**

Tucson, AZ	
Aug. 30	Northern Arizona
Sept. 7	at UNLV
Sept. 14	UTSA
Sept. 28	at Washington
Oct. 10	at USC
Oct. 19	Utah
Oct. 26	at Colorado
Nov. 2	at California
Nov. 9	UCLA
Nov. 16	Washington State
Nov. 23	Oregon
Nov. 30	at Arizona State

**ARIZONA STATE (8-5, 4-4)**

Tempe, AZ	
Sept. 5	Sacramento State
Sept. 14	Wisconsin
Sept. 21	at Stanford
Sept. 28	USC
Oct. 5	vs. Notre Dame #
Oct. 12	Colorado
Oct. 19	Washington
Oct. 31	at Washington State
Nov. 9	at Utah
Nov. 16	Oregon State
Nov. 23	at UCLA
Nov. 30	Arizona

#Arlington, TX

**CALIFORNIA (3-9, 2-7)**

Berkeley, CA	
Aug. 31	Northwestern
Sept. 7	Portland State
Sept. 14	Ohio State
Sept. 28	at Oregon
Oct. 5	Washington State
Oct. 12	at UCLA
Oct. 19	Oregon State
Oct. 26	at Washington
Nov. 2	Arizona
Nov. 9	USC
Nov. 16	at Colorado
Nov. 23	at Stanford

**COLORADO (11-11, 1-8)**

Boulder, CO	
Sept. 1	vs. Colorado State #
Sept. 7	Central Arkansas
Sept. 14	Fresno State
Sept. 28	at Oregon State
Oct. 5	Oregon
Oct. 12	at Arizona State
Oct. 26	Arizona
Nov. 2	at UCLA
Nov. 9	at Washington
Nov. 16	California
Nov. 23	USC
Nov. 30	at Utah

#Denver, CO

**OREGON (12-1, 8-1)**

Eugene, OR	
Aug. 31	Nicholls State
Sept. 7	at Virginia
Sept. 14	Tennessee
Sept. 28	California
Oct. 5	at Colorado
Oct. 12	at Washington
Oct. 19	Washington State
Oct. 26	UCLA
Nov. 7	at Stanford
Nov. 16	Utah
Nov. 23	at Arizona
Nov. 29	Oregon State

**OREGON STATE (9-4, 6-3)**

Corvallis, OR	
Aug. 31	Eastern Washington
Sept. 7	Hawaii
Sept. 14	at Utah
Sept. 21	at San Diego State
Sept. 28	Colorado
Oct. 12	at Washington State
Oct. 19	at California
Oct. 26	Stanford
Nov. 1	USC
Nov. 16	at Arizona State
Nov. 23	Washington
Nov. 29	at Oregon

**STANFORD (12-2, 8-1)**

Stanford, CA	
Sept. 7	San Jose State
Sept. 14	at Army
Sept. 21	Arizona State
Sept. 28	vs. Washington State #
Oct. 5	Washington
Oct. 12	at Utah
Oct. 19	UCLA
Oct. 26	at Oregon State
Nov. 7	Oregon
Nov. 16	at USC
Nov. 23	California
Nov. 30	Notre Dame

#Seattle, WA

**UCLA (9-5, 6-3)**

Los Angeles, CA	
Aug. 31	Nevada
Sept. 14	at Nebraska
Sept. 21	New Mexico State
Oct. 3	at Utah
Oct. 12	California
Oct. 19	at Stanford
Oct. 26	at Oregon
Nov. 2	Colorado
Nov. 9	at Arizona
Nov. 15	Washington
Nov. 23	Arizona State
Nov. 30	at USC

**USC (7-6, 5-4)**

Los Angeles, CA	
Aug. 29	at Hawaii
Sept. 7	Washington State
Sept. 14	Boston College
Sept. 21	Utah State
Sept. 28	at Arizona State
Oct. 10	Arizona
Oct. 19	at Notre Dame
Oct. 26	Utah
Nov. 1	at Oregon State
Nov. 9	at Vanderbilt
Nov. 16	Stanford
Nov. 23	at Colorado
Nov. 30	UCLA

**UTAH (5-7, 3-6)**

Salt Lake City, UT	
Aug. 29	Utah State
Sept. 7	Weber State
Sept. 14	Oregon State
Sept. 21	at BYU
Oct. 3	UCLA
Oct. 12	Stanford
Oct. 19	at Arizona
Oct. 26	at USC
Nov. 9	Arizona State
Nov. 16	at Oregon
Nov. 23	at Washington State
Nov. 30	Colorado

**WASHINGTON (7-6, 5-4)**

Seattle, WA	
Aug. 31	Boise State
Sept. 14	vs. Illinois #
Sept. 21	Idaho State
Sept. 28	Arizona
Oct. 5	at Stanford
Oct. 12	Oregon
Oct. 19	at Arizona State
Oct. 26	California
Nov. 9	Colorado
Nov. 15	at UCLA
Nov. 23	at Oregon State
Nov. 29	Washington State

#Chicago, IL

**WASHINGTON STATE (3-9, 1-8)**

Pullman, WA	
Aug. 31	at Auburn
Sept. 7	at USC
Sept. 14	Southern Utah
Sept. 21	Idaho
Sept. 28	Stanford #
Oct. 5	at California
Oct. 12	Oregon State
Oct. 19	at Oregon
Oct. 31	Arizona State
Nov. 16	at Arizona
Nov. 23	Utah
Nov. 29	at Washington

#Seattle, WA

**SEC**

**ALABAMA (13-1, 7-1)**

Tuscaloosa, AL	
Aug. 31	vs. Virginia Tech #
Sept. 14	at Texas A&M
Sept. 21	Colorado State
Sept. 28	Ole Miss
Oct. 5	Georgia State
Oct. 12	at Kentucky
Oct. 19	Arkansas
Oct. 26	Tennessee
Nov. 9	LSU
Nov. 16	at Mississippi State
Nov. 23	Chattanooga
Nov. 30	at Auburn

#Atlanta, GA

**ARKANSAS (4-8, 2-6)**

Fayetteville, AR	
Aug. 31	UL Lafayette
Sept. 7	vs. Samford #
Sept. 14	Southern Miss
Sept. 21	at Rutgers
Sept. 28	Texas A&M
Oct. 5	at Florida
Oct. 12	South Carolina
Oct. 19	at Alabama
Nov. 2	Auburn
Nov. 9	at Ole Miss
Nov. 23	vs. Mississippi State #
Nov. 30	at LSU

#Little Rock, AR

**AUBURN (3-9, 0-8)**

Auburn, AL	
Aug. 31	Washington State
Sept. 7	Arkansas State
Sept. 14	Mississippi State
Sept. 21	at LSU
Oct. 5	Ole Miss
Oct. 12	Western Carolina
Oct. 19	at Texas A&M
Oct. 26	Florida Atlantic
Nov. 2	at Arkansas
Nov. 9	at Tennessee
Nov. 16	Georgia
Nov. 30	Alabama

**FLORIDA (11-2, 7-1)**

Gainesville, FL	
Aug. 31	Toledo
Sept. 7	at Miami
Sept. 21	Tennessee
Sept. 28	at Kentucky
Oct. 5	Arkansas
Oct. 12	at LSU
Oct. 19	at Missouri
Nov. 2	vs. Georgia #
Nov. 9	at Vanderbilt
Nov. 16	at South Carolina
Nov. 23	Georgia Southern
Nov. 30	Florida State

#Jacksonville, FL

**GEORGIA (12-2, 7-1)**

Athens, GA	
Aug. 31	at Clemson
Sept. 7	South Carolina
Sept. 21	North Texas
Sept. 28	LSU
Oct. 5	at Tennessee
Oct. 12	Missouri
Oct. 19	at Vanderbilt
Nov. 2	vs. Florida #
Nov. 9	Appalachian State
Nov. 16	at Auburn
Nov. 23	Kentucky
Nov. 30	at Georgia Tech

#Jacksonville, FL

**KENTUCKY (2-10, 0-8)**

Lexington, KY	
Aug. 31	vs. Western KY #
Sept. 7	Miami (Ohio)
Sept. 14	Louisville
Sept. 28	Florida
Oct. 5	at South Carolina
Oct. 12	Alabama
Oct. 24	at Mississippi State
Nov. 2	Alabama State
Nov. 9	Missouri
Nov. 16	at Vanderbilt
Nov. 23	at Georgia
Nov. 30	Tennessee

#Nashville, TN

**LSU (10-3, 6-2)**

Baton Rouge, LA	
Aug. 31	vs. TCU #
Sept. 7	UAB
Sept. 14	Kent State
Sept. 21	Auburn
Sept. 28	at Georgia
Oct. 5	at Mississippi State
Oct. 12	Florida
Oct. 19	at Ole Miss
Oct. 26	Furman
Nov. 9	at Alabama
Nov. 23	Texas A&M
Nov. 30	Arkansas

#Arlington, TX

**MISSISSIPPI STATE (8-5, 4-4)**

Starkville, MS	
Aug. 31	vs. Oklahoma State #
Sept. 7	Alcorn State
Sept. 14	at Auburn
Sept. 21	Troy
Oct. 5	LSU
Oct. 12	Bowling Green
Oct. 24	Kentucky
Nov. 2	at South Carolina
Nov. 9	at Texas A&M
Nov. 16	Alabama
Nov. 23	vs. Arkansas %
Nov. 28	Ole Miss

#Houston, TX %Little Rock, AR

**MISSOURI (5-7, 2-6)**

Columbia, MO	
Aug. 31	Murray State
Sept. 7	Toledo
Sept. 21	at Indiana
Sept. 28	Arkansas State
Oct. 5	at Vanderbilt
Oct. 12	at Georgia
Oct. 19	Florida
Oct. 26	South Carolina
Nov. 2	Tennessee
Nov. 9	at Kentucky
Nov. 23	at Ole Miss
Nov. 30	Texas A&M

**OLE MISS (7-6, 3-5)**

Oxford, MS	
Aug. 29	at Vanderbilt
Sept. 7	SE Missouri State
Sept. 14	at Texas
Sept. 28	at Alabama
Oct. 5	at Auburn
Oct. 12	Texas A&M
Oct. 19	LSU
Oct. 26	Idaho
Nov. 9	Arkansas
Nov. 16	Troy
Nov. 23	Missouri
Nov. 28	at Mississippi State

**SOUTH CAROLINA (11-2, 6-2)**

Columbia, SC	
Aug. 29	North Carolina
Sept. 7	at Georgia
Sept. 14	Vanderbilt
Sept. 28	at UCF
Oct. 5	Kentucky
Oct. 12	at Arkansas
Oct. 19	at Tennessee
Oct. 26	at Missouri
Nov. 2	Mississippi State
Nov. 16	Florida
Nov. 23	Coastal Carolina
Nov. 30	Clemson

**TENNESSEE (5-7, 1-7)**

Knoxville, TN	
Aug. 31	Austin Peay
Sept. 7	Western Kentucky
Sept. 14	at Oregon
Sept. 21	at Florida
Sept. 28	South Alabama
Oct. 5	Georgia
Oct. 19	South Carolina
Oct. 26	at Alabama
Nov. 2	at Missouri
Nov. 9	Auburn
Nov. 23	Vanderbilt
Nov. 30	at Kentucky

**TEXAS A&M (11-2, 6-2)**

College Station, TX	
Aug. 31	Rice
Sept. 7	Sam Houston State
Sept. 14	Alabama
Sept. 21	SMU
Sept. 28	at Arkansas
Oct. 12	at Ole Miss
Oct. 19	Auburn
Oct. 26	Vanderbilt
Nov. 2	UTEP
Nov. 9	Mississippi State
Nov. 23	at LSU
Nov. 30	at Missouri

**VANDERBILT (9-4, 5-3)**

Nashville, TN	
Aug. 29	Ole Miss
Sept. 7	Austin Peay
Sept. 14	at South Carolina
Sept. 21	at Massachusetts
Sept. 28	UAB
Oct. 5	Missouri
Oct. 19	Georgia
Oct. 26	at Texas A&M
Nov. 9	at Florida
Nov. 16	Kentucky
Nov. 23	at Tennessee
Nov. 30	Wake Forest

**SUN BELT**

**ARKANSAS STATE (10-3, 7-1)**

Jonesboro, AR	
Aug. 31	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
Sept. 7	at Auburn
Sept. 12	Troy
Sept. 21	at Memphis
Sept. 28	at Missouri
Oct. 12	Idaho
Oct. 22	UL Lafayette
Nov. 2	at South Alabama
Nov. 9	at UL Monroe
Nov. 16	Texas State
Nov. 23	Georgia State
Nov. 30	at Western Kentucky

**GEORGIA STATE (11-10, 1-7 Colonial)**

Atlanta, GA	
Aug. 30	Samford
Sept. 7	Chattanooga
Sept. 14	at West Virginia
Sept. 21	Jacksonville State
Oct. 5	at Alabama
Oct. 12	Troy
Oct. 19	at Texas State
Oct. 26	at UL Monroe
Nov. 2	Western Kentucky
Nov. 16	UL Lafayette
Nov. 23	at Arkansas State
Nov. 30	South Alabama

**UL LAFAYETTE (9-4, 6-2)**

Lafayette, LA	
Aug. 31	at Arkansas
Sept. 7	at Kansas State
Sept. 14	Nicholls State
Sept. 21	at Akron
Oct. 5	Texas State
Oct. 15	at Western Kentucky
Oct. 22	at Arkansas State
Nov. 2	New Mexico State
Nov. 7	Troy
Nov. 16	at Georgia State
Nov. 30	UL Monroe
Dec. 7	at South Alabama

**UL MONROE (8-5, 6-2)**



# ND NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH

NATIONAL FORECAST: 8

**F**or those who thought Brian Kelly's dalliance with the Philadelphia Eagles was a mere blip on the radar, think again. Don't be surprised if he's engaged in talks with other NFL teams in the near future. Winning does that. "Other teams will pursue me in the future because we're going to continue to win," Kelly said following Notre Dame's run to the BCS National Championship Game against Alabama. "That doesn't mean I have an interest. But I think that's going to continue to happen because we're going to continue to have success here."

That's big talk for a program that won in double figures for the first time since 2006 and competed for the national title for the first time in 19 years. It's verging on braggadocio for a Notre Dame team that lost 50 times in a nine-year span from 2003-11. But it is talk grounded in reality.

The Irish return five of the front seven on a defense that allowed just 12.8 points per game, three-fifths of the starting offensive line, and the quarterback who played well enough in his first year to inspire visions of BCS games on a regular basis.

"When you're in that environment, you want to get back there because there's no atmosphere like it," says Kelly of Notre Dame's national championship tilt with the Crimson Tide that ended in a 42-14 loss. "It's a great motivator for your football team."

**QUARTERBACKS** Everett Golson won the starting job in the 2012 preseason over Andrew Hendrix as Tommy Rees sat out the first game due to suspension. Kelly continued to use Rees in a closer's role in victories over Purdue, Michigan and Stanford, and then as the starter for a concussed Golson against BYU. But after Golson led the Irish to an upset victory at Oklahoma, he began to flourish, leading a come-from-behind rally at home against Pittsburgh that kept Notre Dame's national-title hopes alive. Golson completed 58.8 percent of his passes for 2,405 yards with 12 touchdowns and only six interceptions. The South Carolina native also added 298 yards on the ground to give the Irish just enough of a rushing threat from the quarterback position. With three years of eligibility, Golson is a star on the rise. "He's stepping out front," Kelly said. "He's leading workouts. He's active in meetings. He's on the edge of his chair. Across the board, he's a different young man because he's been in it. He knows what it looks like."

**RUNNING BACKS** The Irish lost 1,659 yards rushing and nine rushing TDs with the graduation of Theo Riddick and Cierre Wood. Riddick, in particular, was a warrior down the stretch in 2012 as the Irish grinded out victories over Pittsburgh, Boston College and USC. There is, however, still plenty of talent at the position, led by junior George Atkinson III, who averaged 7.1 yards on his 51 carries with five rushing TDs. He'll face competition from USC transfer Amir Carlisle, as well as freshmen Greg Bryant and Tarean Folston, two of the more highly touted running backs from the prep ranks. Also competing for playing time is junior Cam McDaniel, who like Carlisle is a top pass-catching threat out of the backfield.

**RECEIVERS** In 2012, the Irish had to replace wide-out Michael Floyd. This season, it's Tyler Eifert, Notre Dame's all-time leader in career receptions among tight ends with 140. The Irish will compensate for the loss of Eifert with a committee as opposed to one stand-out, although senior TJ Jones and sophomore DaVaris Daniels were shining stars in the one-sided loss to Alabama. Jones, with 50 receptions for 649 yards, came on strong last season, and Daniels (31 catches, 490 yards) began to emerge in his first season of competition. Senior Daniel Smith and sophomore Chris Brown will be in the mix for a spot in the rotation. C.J. Prosise preserved a year of eligibility at safety last season and is now contending for reps as a slot receiver. Early-entry freshmen James Onwualu and Corey Robinson are in the running for playing time at receiver, while rookie tight end Mike Heurman is chasing Troy Niklas, Alex Welch and Ben Koyack for playing time.

**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** Center Braxton Cave (35 career starts) and right guard Mike Golic Jr. (17 career starts) are gone. But left tackle Zack Martin is back for a final year of eligibility after projecting as a second-round NFL pick. He'll team up with fellow fifth-year senior Chris Watt at left guard to form one of the better and more experienced tandems in the country. Junior Christian Lom-

## 2013 SCHEDULE

### AUGUST

8 Temple

### SEPTEMBER

7 at Michigan

14 at Purdue

21 Michigan State

28 Oklahoma

### OCTOBER

5 vs. Arizona State #

19 USC

26 at Air Force

### NOVEMBER

2 Navy

9 at Pittsburgh

23 BYU

30 at Stanford

#Arlington, TX

## KEY FIGHTING IRISH

### Everett Golson, QB

Fumbling issues haunted him early, but he came to life in the second half of the season.

**Louis Nix III, NG** The proverbial immovable object in the middle of the line holds the point of attack as well as any nose guard in the country.

**Stephen Tuitt, DE** Despite battling a sports hernia the second half of the season, he still led the Irish in sacks with 12.



## KEY LOSSES

**Manti Te'o, LB** Led the team in tackles with 113 and interceptions with seven; was the heart and soul of the entire team.

**Tyler Eifert, TE** His pass-catching numbers dwindled in 2012, but he remained ND's go-to receiver.

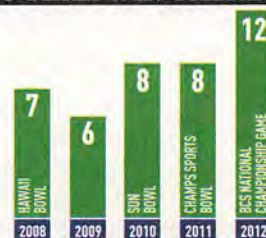
**Kapron Lewis-Moore, DE** Often overshadowed by fellow defensive linemen, but he was a big part of an elite defense.

## THE VERDICT

### 2013 PROJECTION: 10-2

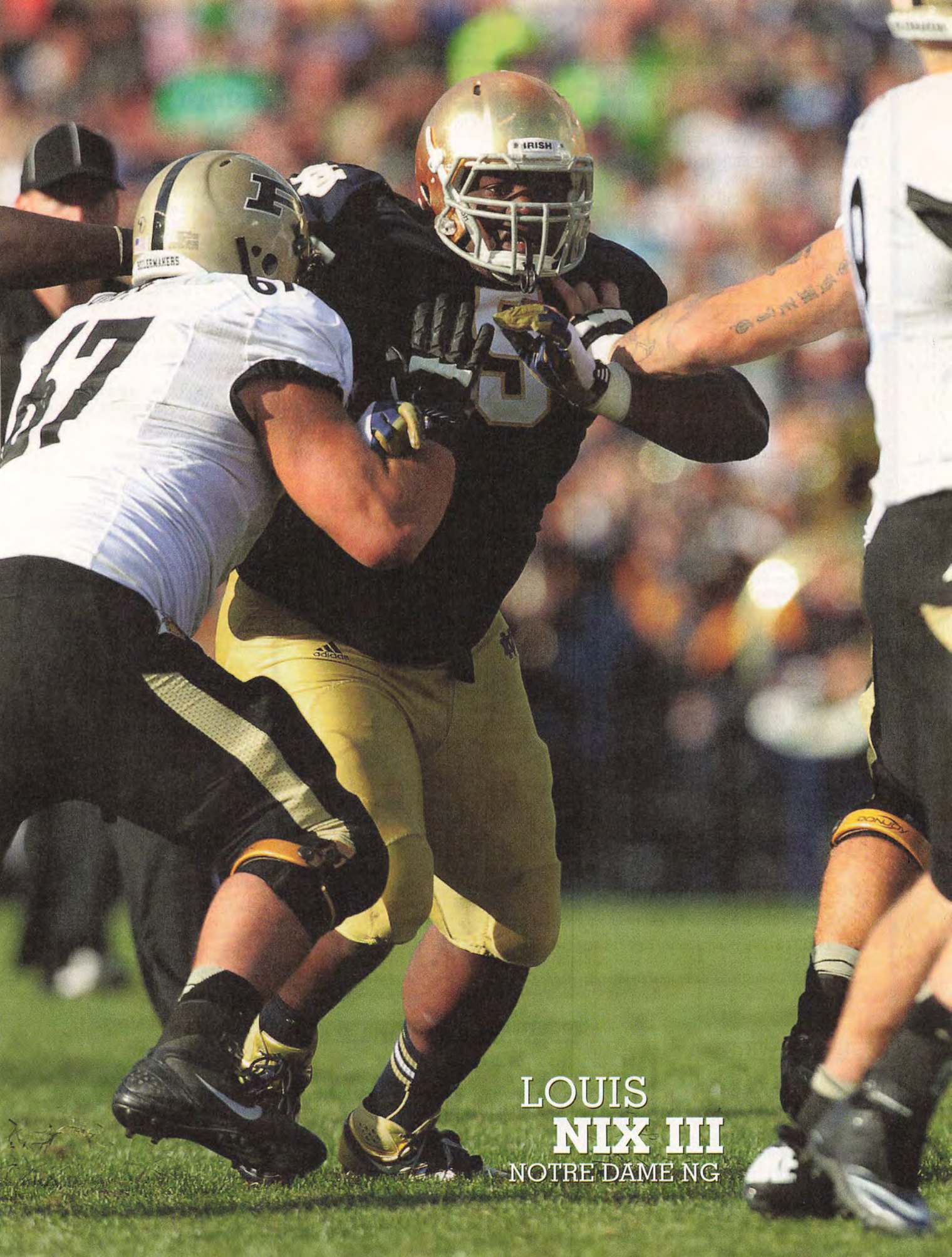
The Fighting Irish were soundly defeated by Alabama in the BCS National Championship Game, but Brian Kelly clearly has the program back among the elite. Eight starters return from a defense that allowed only 12.8 points and 305.5 yards per game. The offense played better in the second half of last season, but quarterback Everett Golson still has room to grow. Running backs Cierre Wood and Theo Riddick, along with tight end Tyler Eifert, the top receiving threat, must be replaced. Don't expect another undefeated regular season, but Notre Dame should once again play in a BCS bowl. **Postseason: Orange Bowl vs. Clemson**

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Tim Clark/Athlon Sports





LOUIS  
**NIX III**  
NOTRE DAME NG



bard returns at right tackle after starting all 13 games in 2012. Nick Martin, Zack's brother, nailed down the center job in the spring, and right guard Conor Hanratty, whose father Terry helped lead Notre Dame to the 1966 national title, won the battle in the spring. If sophomore Ronnie Stanley emerges at tackle, he could bump Lombard to right guard.

**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** It's rare that Notre Dame boasts NFL talent along the defensive line, which is a big reason why the Irish hadn't competed for a national title in nearly two decades. But with juniors Louis Nix III at nose guard and Stephon Tuitt at left end, the Irish are capable of dominating at the point of attack, as evidenced by their gaudy numbers against the rush in 2012. Veteran end Kapron Lewis-Moore is gone, but sophomore Sheldon Day — who played a significant role as a rookie in 2012 — steps into the starting lineup and should be productive from the outset. Sophomore Tony Springmann made an impressive debut last season. Senior Kona Schwenke

is a capable backup to Nix, although star power is lost when Nix comes off the field. Notre Dame will need 6'5", 295-pound redshirt freshman Jarron Jones, who preserved a year of eligibility in 2012, to make a contribution in the absence of junior Chase Hounshell, who will miss his second straight season with a shoulder injury. The Irish will be counting on highly touted freshman defensive tackle Eddie Vanderdoes to make an early impact.

**LINEBACKERS** Considering he led one of the top defenses in the country with 113 tackles and a surprising seven interceptions from his inside linebacker position, Manti Te'o was a worthy Heisman Trophy runner-up. His leadership will be missed as much as his on-field productivity. The coaching staff is high on Te'o's replacement, Jarrett Grace, who is the type of downhill run-stopper with size that defensive coordinator Bob Diaco covets. Grace will form a trio inside with fifth-year seniors Dan Fox and Carlo Calabrese, who have a combined 35 career starts. Senior Prince Shembo is listed as an outside linebacker, but he's a hybrid end/outside backer who has recorded 14 career sacks. The Irish were pleasantly surprised by the emergence of physical outside linebacker Danny Spond in '12. Ishaq Williams appears primed for a breakout junior campaign. Sophomores Ben Council and Romeo Okwara should be ready to contribute. Expectations will be high for 5-star freshman Jaylon Smith.

## DEPTH CHART

### OFFENSE (5)

WR 81	DaVaris Daniels (So.)	88	Corey Robinson (Fr.)
WR 7	TJ Jones (Sr.)	2	Chris Brown (So.)
WR 20	C.J. Prosise (Fr.)	87	Daniel Smith (Sr.)
LT 70	Zack Martin (Sr.)	78	Ronnie Stanley (So.)
LG 66	Chris Watt (Sr.)	51	Bruce Heggie (Jr.)
C 72	Nick Martin (So.)	77	Matt Hegarty (So.)
RG 65	Conor Hanratty (So.)	75	Mark Harrell (Fr.)
RT 74	Christian Lombard (Jr.)	79	Steve Elmer (Fr.)
TE 85	Troy Niklas (Jr.)	82	Alex Welch (Jr.)
QB 5	Everett Golson (So.)	11	Tommy Rees (Sr.)
RB 4	George Atkinson III (Jr.)	3	Amir Cartisle (Jr.)

### DEFENSE (8)

DE 7	Stephon Tuitt (Jr.)	94	Jarron Jones (Fr.)
NG 1	Louis Nix III (Jr.)	96	Kona Schwenke (Sr.)
DE 91	Sheldon Day (So.)	69	Tony Springmann (So.)
OLB 55	Prince Shembo (Sr.)	11	Ishaq Williams (Jr.)
ILB 44	Carlo Calabrese (Sr.)	59	Jarrett Grace (So.)
ILB 48	Dan Fox (Sr.)	8	Kendall Moore (Jr.)
OLB 13	Danny Spond (Sr.)	30	Ben Council (So.)
CB 2	Bennett Jackson (Sr.)	21	Jalen Brown (So.)
CB 6	KeiVarae Russell (So.)	23	Lo Wood (Jr.)
S 41	Matthias Farley (So.)	28	Austin Collinworth (Jr.)
S 22	Elijah Shumate (So.)	29	Nicky Baratti (So.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K 27	Kyle Brindza (Jr.)	KR 4	George Atkinson (Jr.)
P	Alex Wulfeck (Sr.)	PR 7	TJ Jones (Sr.)

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** Anticipating the potential for disaster with the departure of veterans Robert Blanton and Gary Gray, the Irish instead turned in a great performance last year in the secondary. Converted receiver Bennett Jackson became a leader, and true freshman KeiVarae Russell emerged as a legitimate starter after Lo Wood was lost for the season with an Achilles injury. Wood's return gives Notre Dame depth at cornerback. The Irish must replace veteran Zeke Motta at safety, but Matthias Farley, another productive converted wide receiver, is now the leader on the back end of the defense. Sophomore Elijah Shumate saw playing time as Notre Dame's nickel back in '12, and now he's competing with classmate Nicky Baratti and junior Austin Collinworth for the open position at safety. Safety prospect Max Redfield is among the most highly regarded of the Notre Dame freshmen.

**SPECIALISTS** Kyle Brindza started the 2012 campaign as the backup to Nick Tausch, who waited his turn as David Ruffer ran roughshod over the Irish kicking record book in '11. But Tausch suffered an injury before the second game, and Brindza stepped in and set a school record with 23 field goals. Alex Wulfeck, a senior transfer from Wake Forest, is in line to take over the punting duties.

## RISING STAR

**Amir Cartisle** has battled an assortment of injuries since he transferred to Notre Dame from USC, but he should be 100 percent healthy in the fall. Coach Brian Kelly is excited about what the speedy California native can provide at running back and as a slot receiver, and possibly as a return man as well.

## SCOUTING THE FIGHTING IRISH

### OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP NOTRE DAME

"Brian (Kelly) utilizes his personnel well. He plays well to the strengths of the team, and he adapted. The quarterback (Everett Golson) has a chance to be a great player when he becomes more consistent. ... The quarterback's ability to make plays was why they went with him over the [older] quarterbacks. The other guys didn't have that same ability or creativity. ... The tight end (Tyler Eifert) was the hardest matchup on the field. Linebackers couldn't control him, defensive backs weren't big enough to handle him. They'll miss him. The way they used him in wideout sets, flexing him, they did a good job formation-ing you and trying to get a matchup. That's why I think (Kelly) stayed with so many big formations, because the wide receivers weren't ready for an offense that threw it 40 times a game. They'll throw it 25 times per game unless they really develop those skill players. ... They are really big up front defensively. Really good there. They make it difficult."

## OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

**GOLSON DEMANDS MORE** Everett Golson doesn't just want to quarterback the Irish offense — he wants to lead it. "I don't know that you could even put him in the same category with where he started last year to where he is now," Brian Kelly says. "He now has a strong command of our offense. We're at a totally different point in his development."

**REGULAR PERFECTION** Notre Dame, which was 12-0 before losing to Alabama in the BCS National Championship Game, enjoyed its first undefeated regular season since 1988 — the year Lou Holtz guided the Fighting Irish to its last national title.

**FINDING THEIR MAN** With the graduation of Zeke Motta, which came on the heels of the loss of first-round draft choice Harrison Smith, the Irish will be breaking in a young player to handle safety opposite 2012 upstart Matthias Farley. It looks like the Irish have found their guy in sophomore Elijah Shumate, who handled nickel duties in 2012. "He's physical. He's a sure tackler, and he can play the safety position," Kelly says. "He's our guy back there. He's got to continue to learn. But (safeties) Coach (Bob) Elliott has done a nice job with the learning curve."

**BACK AND BETTER** Fifth-year senior left tackle Zack Martin could have jumped to the NFL after the 2012 season, but he opted to return to Notre Dame, and he'll anchor the left side of the line with fifth-year senior guard Chris Watt. "NFL offensive line coach) Tony Wise was here, and he's coached for a long time, and (four-time All-Pro center) Olin Kreutz was here to watch practice," says Irish offensive line coach Harry Hiestand. "(Martin) was all they kept talking about."

## TEAM INFO

### HEAD COACH

Brian Kelly

### RECORD AT SCHOOL

28-11 (3 years)

### CAREER RECORD

199-68-2 (22 years)

### OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Chuck Martin

### CO-DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS

Bob Diaco, Kerry Cooks

### LOCATION

South Bend, IN

### STADIUM

Notre Dame Stadium (80,795)



# ND 2013 NOTRE DAME ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
17 Fliessinger, Charlie	6-1/190	Jr.	Mason, OH
5 Golson, Everett	6-0/186	So.	Myrtle Beach, SC
12 Hendrix, Andrew	6-2/226	Jr.	Cincinnati, OH
11 Rees, Tommy	6-2/213	Sr.	Lake Forest, IL
8 Zaire, Malik	6-0/208	Fr.	Kettering, OH

RUNNING BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
4 Atkinson III, George	6-1/217	Jr.	Stockton, CA
3 Carlisle, Amir	5-10/185	So.	Santa Clara, CA
32 Mahone, Will	5-11/214	Fr.	Austintown, OH
33 McDaniel, Cam	5-10/199	Jr.	Coppell, TX
49 Plantz, Tyler	5-9/203	Sr.	Frankfort, IL

RECEIVERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
46 Anderson, Josh	5-9/198	So.	Chatsworth, CA
2 Brown, Chris	6-2/191	So.	Hanahan, SC
81 Daniels, DaVaris	6-2/192	So.	Vernon Hills, IL
7 Jones, TJ	5-11/192	Sr.	Roswell, GA
37 Lee, Eric	5-8/173	Jr.	West Des Moines, IA
39 Liebscher, Ryan	5-11/211	Sr.	Colorado Springs, CO
83 Martinez, Gerard	6-1/199	Fr.	Las Vegas, NV
14 Massa, Luke	6-4/234	Sr.	Cincinnati, OH
17 Onwuallu, James	6-1/215	Fr.	Saint Paul, MN
20 Proise, C.J.	6-2/220	Fr.	Petersburg, VA
88 Robinson, Corey	6-5/197	Fr.	San Antonio, TX
87 Smith, Daniel	6-4/213	Sr.	South Bend, IN

TIGHT ENDS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
81 Brooks, Joey	6-5/222	Sr.	Houston, TX
9 Heurman, Mike	6-4/218	Fr.	Naples, FL
18 Koyack, Ben	6-5/261	Jr.	Oil City, PA
85 Niklas, Troy	6-7/259	Jr.	Fullerton, CA
82 Welch, Alex	6-4/245	Jr.	Cincinnati, OH

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
67 Carr, Kevin	6-5/355	Sr.	Nashville, TN
79 Elmer, Steve	6-6/317	Fr.	Midland, MI
73 Furlong, Dan	6-4/243	Fr.	Livonia, MI
65 Hanratty, Conor	6-5/309	So.	New Canaan, CT
75 Harrell, Mark	6-4/305	Fr.	Charlotte, NC
77 Hegarty, Matt	6-5/291	So.	Aztec, NM
51 Heggie, Bruce	6-5/286	Jr.	Sorrento, FL
74 Lombard, Christian	6-5/322	Jr.	Inverness, IL
72 Martin, Nick	6-5/284	So.	Indianapolis, IN
70 Martin, Zack	6-4/308	Sr.	Indianapolis, IN
78 Stanley, Ronnie	6-6/318	So.	Las Vegas, NV
66 Watt, Chris	6-3/321	Sr.	Glen Ellyn, IL

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
91 Day, Sheldon	6-2/286	So.	Indianapolis, IN
50 Hounshell, Chase	6-4/271	So.	Kirtland, OH
94 Jones, Jarron	6-5/295	Fr.	Rochester, NY
86 Martinez, Arturo	6-4/254	Sr.	Miami, FL
1 Nix III, Louis	6-3/347	Jr.	Jacksonville, FL
96 Schwenke, Kona	6-4/297	Sr.	Hauula, HI
69 Springmann, Tony	6-6/284	So.	Fort Wayne, IN
92 Stockton, Tyler	5-11/284	Sr.	Linwood, NJ
7 Tuitt, Stephon	6-6/322	Jr.	Monroe, GA
53 Utupo, Justin	6-1/281	Sr.	Lakewood, CA
11 Williams, Ishaq	6-5/261	Jr.	Brooklyn, NY

LINEBACKERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
44 Calabrese, Carlo	6-1/244	Sr.	Verona, NJ
30 Councell, Ben	6-5/248	So.	Asheville, NC
48 Fox, Dan	6-3/242	Sr.	Rocky River, OH
59 Grace, Jarrett	6-3/248	So.	Cincinnati, OH
93 Little, Connor	6-3/222	Jr.	Lake Elmo, MN
8 Moore, Kendall	6-1/244	Jr.	Raleigh, NC
45 Okwara, Romeo	6-4/258	So.	Charlotte, NC
56 Rabasa, Anthony	6-3/243	So.	Miami, FL
38 Schmidt, Joe	6-0/226	So.	Orange, CA
55 Shembo, Prince	6-2/258	Sr.	Charlotte, NC
13 Spond, Danny	6-2/248	Sr.	Littleton, CO

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
24 Atkinson, Josh	6-0/197	Jr.	Stockton, CA
16 Badger, Chris	6-0/193	Fr.	Provo, UT
29 Baratti, Nicky	6-1/201	So.	Tomball, TX
21 Brown, Jalen	6-1/207	So.	Irving, TX
47 Cavalaris, Connor	5-11/190	So.	Lake Forest, IL
28 Collinsworth, Austin	6-1/194	Jr.	Fort Thomas, KY
41 Farley, Matthias	5-11/204	So.	Charlotte, NC
4 Hardy, Eilar	5-11/190	So.	Reynoldsburg, OH
2 Jackson, Bennett	6-0/183	Sr.	Hazlet, NJ

46 McOsker, Eamon	6-0/198	Fr.	San Pedro, CA
35 Romano, Joe	5-9/174	Sr.	River Forest, IL
6 Russell, KeiVarae	5-11/190	So.	Everett, WA
22 Shumate, Elijah	6-0/213	So.	East Orange, NJ
42 Soto, Ernie	5-9/188	Jr.	Davie, FL
31 Turner, John	6-0/220	Fr.	Indianapolis, IN
23 Wood, Lo	5-11/194	Jr.	Apopka, FL

SPECIALISTS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
27 Brindza, Kyle (K/P)	6-1/236	Jr.	Canton, MI
61 Daly, Scott (LS)	6-2/248	So.	Downers Grove, IL
39 Rhodes, Jude (K/P)	5-10/180	Sr.	Kapsowar, Kenya
40 Tausch, Nick (K)	6-0/195	Sr.	Plano, TX
Wulfeck, Alex (P)	5-9/175	Sr.	Jacksonville, FL

## 2012 RESULTS

RECORD: 12-1

Sept. 1	vs. Navy %	W	50-10
Sept. 8	Purdue	W	20-17
Sept. 15	at Michigan State	W	20-3
Sept. 22	Michigan	W	13-6
Oct. 6	vs. Miami (Fla.) &	W	41-3
Oct. 13	Stanford (ot)	W	20-13
Oct. 20	BYU	W	17-14
Oct. 27	at Oklahoma	W	30-13
Nov. 3	Pittsburgh (ot)	W	29-26
Nov. 10	at Boston College	W	21-6
Nov. 17	Wake Forest	W	38-0
Nov. 24	at USC	W	22-13
Jan. 7	vs. Alabama #	L	14-42

%Dublin, Ireland & Chicago  
#BCS National Championship



TJ JONES

## 2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Everett Golson	318	187	2,405	12	6
Tommy Rees	59	34	436	2	2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Theo Riddick	190	917	4.8	5
Cierre Wood	114	742	6.5	4
George Atkinson III	51	361	7.1	5
Everett Golson	94	298	3.2	6

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Tyler Eifert	50	685	13.7	4
TJ Jones	50	649	13.0	4
Theo Riddick	36	370	10.3	2
DaVaris Daniels	31	490	15.8	0

**KICKING:** Kyle Brindza, 23-31 FGs, 29-29 XPs, 97 points

**TACKLES:** Manti Te'o, 113; Zeke Motta, 77

**SACKS:** Stephon Tuitt, 12; Prince Shembo, 7.5

**INTERCEPTIONS:** Manti Te'o, 7; Bennett Jackson, 4

Returning Players in Bold

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	National
Scoring	25.8 ppg	78
Rushing	189.4 ypg	38
Passing	222.8 ypg	71
Total	412.2 ypg	54
Defense	Per Game	National
Scoring	12.8 ppg	2
Rushing	105.7 ypg	11
Passing	199.8 ypg	25
Total	305.5 ypg	7
TO Margin	Per Game	National
+8	+0.62	27

## 2013 SIGNEES

Hunter Bivin	OL	6-6	290	Owensboro, KY
Greg Bryant	RB	5-11	200	DelRay Beach, FL
Devin Butler	DB	6-2	180	Washington, DC
Michael Deeb	LB	6-2	235	Plantation, FL
Steve Elmer	OL	6-5	300	Midland, MI
Tarean Folston	RB	5-10	190	Cocoa, FL
William Fuller	WR	6-1	180	Philadelphia, PA
Mike Heurman	TE	6-4	225	Naples, FL
Torii Hunter Jr.	WR	6-0	180	Prosper, TX
Rashad Kinlaw	DB	5-11	185	Galloway, NJ
Cole Luke	DB	6-0	180	Chandler, AZ
Jacob Matuska	DL	6-5	255	Columbus, OH

Mike McGlinchey	OL	6-8	280	Philadelphia, PA
Colin McGovern	OL	6-5	280	New Lenox, IL
John Montelus	OL	6-5	305	Everett, MA
James Onwuallu	WR	6-2	210	Saint Paul, MN
Doug Randolph	LB	6-3	230	Richmond, VA
Max Redfield	DB	6-2	195	Mission Viejo, CA
Corey Robinson	WR	6-5	190	San Antonio, TX
Isaac Rochell	DL	6-5	265	McDonough, GA
Jaylon Smith	LB	6-3	220	Fort Wayne, IN
Durham Smythe	TE	6-5	230	Belton, TX
Eddie Vanderdoes	DL	6-3	285	Auburn, CA
Malik Zaire	QB	6-2	190	Kettering, OH

The Irish signed a consensus top-5 class, led by safety Max Redfield, outside linebacker Jaylon Smith, defensive lineman Eddie Vanderdoes and running backs Greg Bryant and Tarean Folston. The coaching staff is excited about quarterback Malik Zaire, who enrolled early and picked up the nuances of the playbook during the spring. Two early enrollees impressed at wide receiver, James Onwuallu and Corey Robinson, the son of Hall of Fame basketball player David Robinson. The Irish signed five offensive linemen, led by early-entrant tackle Steve Elmer and highly touted guard John Montelus.



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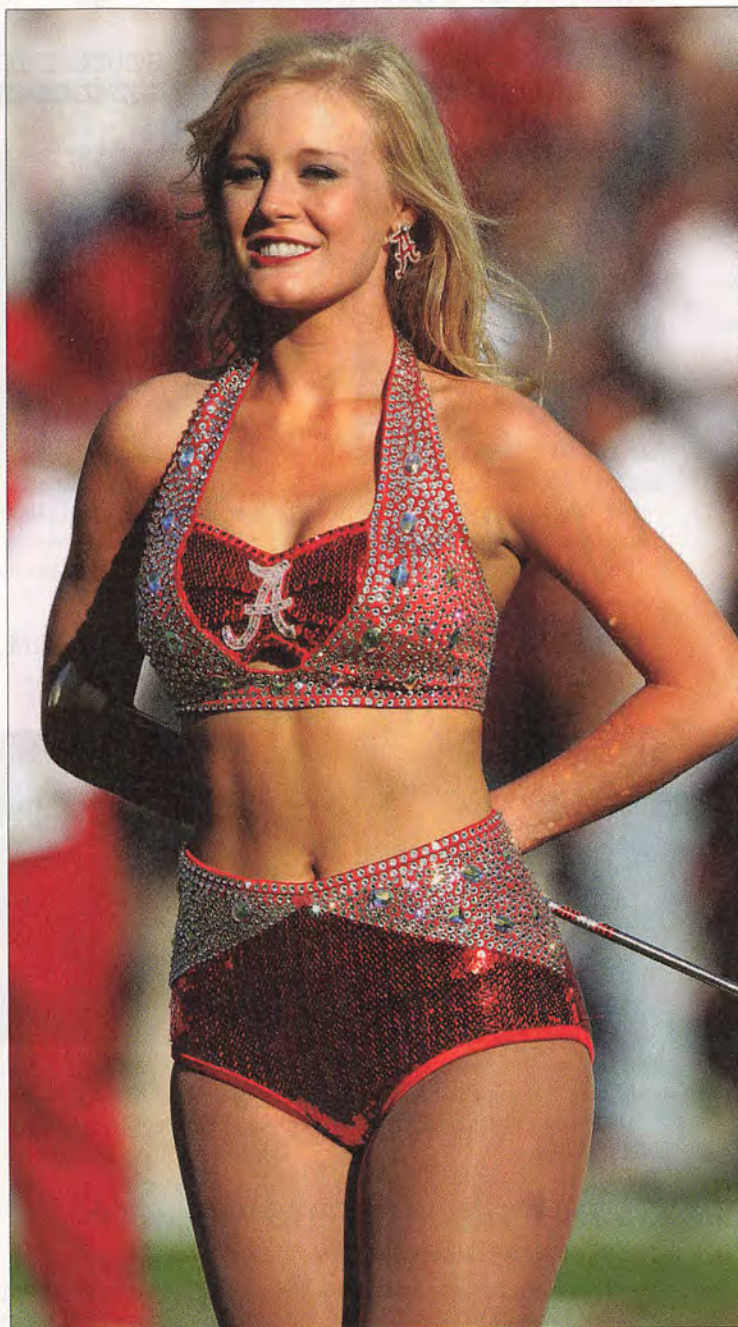
# SOUTHEASTERN PREVIEW

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 112 FLORIDA **GATORS**
- 118 GEORGIA **BULLDOGS**
- 124 KENTUCKY **WILDCATS**
- 130 MISSOURI **TIGERS**
- 136 SOUTH CAROLINA **GAMECOCKS**
- 144 TENNESSEE **VOLUNTEERS**
- 150 VANDERBILT **COMMODORES**
- 156 ALABAMA **CRIMSON TIDE**
- 164 ARKANSAS **RAZORBACKS**
- 170 AUBURN **TIGERS**
- 176 LSU **TIGERS**
- 182 MISSISSIPPI STATE **BULLDOGS**
- 188 OLE MISS **REBELS**
- 196 TEXAS A&M **AGGIES**

## REGIONAL TEAMS

- 204 LOUISVILLE **CARDINALS**
- 205 MEMPHIS **TIGERS**
- 206 SOUTH FLORIDA **BULLS**
- 207 UCF **KNIGHTS**
- 209 FLORIDA ATLANTIC **OWLS**
- 210 FIU **PANTHERS**
- 211 LOUISIANA TECH **BULLDOGS**
- 212 MIDDLE TENNESSEE **BLUE RAIDERS**
- 213 SOUTHERN MISS **GOLDEN EAGLES**
- 214 TULANE **GREEN WAVE**
- 215 UAB **BLAZERS**



## FEATURES

- 108 INTO THE FIRE
- 142 SOUTH CAROLINA'S RISE TO POWER
- 162 7 THREATS TO BAMA'S DYNASTY
- 194 REBS STRIKE GOLD





## SEC PREVIEW

### PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

EAST

#### 1 GEORGIA BULLDOGS

10-3, 7-1 SEC



**Schedule Notes:** The Dawgs' 2013 slate is not easy. They host LSU and visit Auburn in crossover games and visit both Clemson and Georgia Tech in non-conference action.

#### 2 SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

10-2, 6-2 SEC



**Schedule Notes:** The Gamecocks get a break by not having to face Alabama, Texas A&M or LSU. They have two tests at home out of league — UNC and Clemson.

#### 3 FLORIDA GATORS

9-3, 5-3 SEC



**Schedule Notes:** It's brutal. In league play, the Gators must travel to LSU. Out of conference, there is a trip to improved Miami and the finale against Florida State.

WEST

#### 1 ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

13-0, 8-0 SEC



**Schedule Notes:** Things set up nicely for another title run. Virginia Tech in Atlanta could be tricky, and the trip to Texas A&M will be a challenge.

#### 2 TEXAS A&M AGGIES

10-2, 6-2 SEC



**Schedule Notes:** One of the softest slates in the league. Vanderbilt and Mizzou from the East, plus Rice, Sam Houston State, SMU and UTEP in non-league action.

#### 3 LSU TIGERS

9-3, 5-3 SEC



**Schedule Notes:** The Tigers open against TCU in Arlington, Texas, and have to play both Georgia (in Athens) and Florida from the East. Brutal.

### INSIDE THE ATHLON SPORTS WAR ROOM

These questions shaped our 2013 SEC predictions.

Three teams were discussed for the top spot in the SEC East. Why was Georgia the pick?

It was a tough call, but Georgia got the nod over South Carolina and Florida because of its prowess on offense. The Bulldogs feature an elite quarterback (Aaron Murray), two All-SEC-caliber tailbacks (Todd Gurley, Keith Marshall), a deep collection of wide receivers and a veteran offensive line. The Bulldogs, assuming the key players remain healthy, will score a ton of points this fall. Georgia must replace some outstanding players on defense, but the Dawgs still have plenty of talent on that side of the ball and

there shouldn't be too much drop-off. South Carolina should be very good on both sides of the ball and would be a worthy pick for No. 1, but we were a bit concerned about the lack of proven playmakers on offense. The concern for Florida is an offense that ranked 12th in the SEC last year with 334.4 yards per game. The Gators must become more balanced to emerge as a national title contender.

Alabama was the unanimous No. 1 pick in the SEC and the nation. Is there any reason to believe the Crimson Tide will stumble?

Not really. Alabama has recruited so well over the

past five years and is so well-coached that it's tough to find a reason not to pick the Crimson Tide to win yet another SEC title. The biggest cause for concern is the offensive line, which must replace three All-SEC first-teamers — Barrett Jones, D.J. Fluker and Chance Warmack. However, the two returning starters — Cyrus Kouandjio and Antony Steen — are preseason All-SEC picks, and there are plenty of talented players ready to emerge. The biggest hurdle on the schedule is a September trip to Texas A&M, but Alabama still won the SEC title last year despite losing to the Aggies in the regular season.

Murray: Bruce Schwarzman; Johnson: Tom DiPace  
Others: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports





## SEC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: ALABAMA OVER GEORGIA

### 4 VANDERBILT COMMODORES

8-4, 4-4 SEC



**Schedule Notes:** The crossover games are tough — Ole Miss at home in the opener on a Thursday night plus a visit to Texas A&M.

### 5 TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

6-6, 3-5 SEC



**Schedule Notes:** The Vols face arguably the toughest slate in the league. They play at Alabama and Oregon, two top-five teams.

### 6 MISSOURI TIGERS

5-7, 1-7 SEC



**Schedule Notes:** Non-conference games are soft, but the Tigers visit Ole Miss and host Texas A&M from the West. That is not easy.

### 7 KENTUCKY WILDCATS

4-8, 1-7 SEC



**Schedule Notes:** The Cats host Louisville early and play Mississippi State and Bama from the West. Good luck, Mark Stoops.

EAST

### 4 OLE MISS REBELS

7-5, 4-4 SEC



**Schedule Notes:** How's this for a five-game stretch: at Texas, at Bama, at Auburn, A&M and LSU. Opener at Vanderbilt is huge.

### 5 MISSISSIPPI STATE BULLDOGS

6-6, 3-5 SEC



**Schedule Notes:** Open with Big 12 favorite Oklahoma State in Houston. They get UK and South Carolina (on the road) from the East.

### 6 AUBURN TIGERS

6-6, 2-6 SEC



**Schedule Notes:** Nothing too scary out of conference, but the Tigers must visit Tennessee and host Georgia in crossover play.

### 7 ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS

5-7, 1-7 SEC



**Schedule Notes:** Welcome to the SEC, Bret Bielema. Hogs play South Carolina and Florida from the East and visit Bama, Ole Miss and LSU.

WEST

Most teams that suffered the type of personnel losses that LSU did would get penalized more heavily in the preseason rankings. Do the Tigers get the benefit of the doubt?

It's fair to say we might make some assumptions about a program like LSU — which has been so good for the past decade — that we don't make about other teams with less of a track record. This year's team must replace nine key players on defense. That would cripple most programs, but LSU is not like most programs. The Tigers have been so consistently strong on defense that we can assume there will be enough quality replacements to keep the defense among the best in the league. Now, we don't expect LSU to be as dominant as it's been in the past three

years, but we'd be surprised if the Tigers didn't finish in the top-five in the SEC in total defense. Having said all that, we did pick LSU third in the SEC West and No. 12 overall — not exactly among the elite of the elite. That, however, has as much to do with our concerns about LSU's rather ordinary offense as it does the exodus of talent on defense.

Vanderbilt is picked ahead of Tennessee in the SEC East for the first time ever. What was the rationale? Vanderbilt was clearly the better team last year, and based on the personnel returning to both programs, there's no reason to believe the 2013 season will be any different. The Commodores went 5-3 in the league last year and outgained their SEC opponents (plus-5.3 yards per game) for the first time in at least

four decades. Tennessee stumbled through a 1-7 SEC record and was outgained by 80.3 yards per game. Despite suffering some key losses on offense — quarterback Tyler Bray and their top four pass-catchers — Tennessee should be improved under new coach Butch Jones. Vanderbilt, however, should still finish ahead of the Vols in the standings.

**Are you projecting Auburn to bounce back?**

The quick answer: Yes. The tougher question: How much? This was hotly debated in our meeting. We ended up picking the Tigers to finish sixth in the SEC West (up from seventh) and project a 2-6 league record (up from 0-8). We believe this team will be vastly improved, but it's tough to find too many wins on the league schedule.





**TALKING SOME TRASH** You know Nick Saban is "The Man" on the SEC pedestal when multiple coaches take shots at him in the offseason. And you know Saban is feared enough that those coaches quickly take it back.

First, Vanderbilt's James Franklin referred to the Alabama coach as "Nicky Satan" during a speaking engagement. He later apologized to Saban, and Franklin said he had been joking. (Which clearly he was.)

Then Arkansas' Bret Bielema caused a stir by telling a local Razorback Club that "I didn't come here to play Alabama. I came here to beat Alabama. You can take Saban's record when he was at Michigan State and when he was a coach in the Big Ten and put it against mine, and it can't compare."

Bielema was technically correct: He was 68-24 overall and 37-19 in the Big Ten while at Wisconsin from 2006-12, while Saban was 34-24-1 overall and 23-16-1 in the conference at Michigan State from 1995-99.

But Bielema still felt the need to take to Twitter and say: "Alabama quotes were a joke to a question from a fan at pep rally. #wow."

Saban didn't respond publicly to either slight, which seems to be following a recent pattern in the SEC.

Remember how Steve Spurrier and Phillip Fulmer threw verbal volley back and forth in the '90s? (Mostly Spurrier towards Fulmer.) And then how Lane Kiffin's one year in the conference resulted in a memorable verbal war with Urban Meyer, and even Spurrier on one occasion?

The SEC has a rich history of coaching trash talk, but the tendency lately has been to turn the other cheek.

Take last year, when Spurrier was quoted as saying he was unhappy his game with Georgia was moved to later in the season because the Bulldogs usually had players suspended for the first two games. Georgia's Mark Richt laughed off the shot, saying, "That sounds like Steve."

It did sound like Spurrier, but in this day and age the fun and quotable coaches are becoming more and more rare. And Spurrier probably won't be on the scene much longer.

But perhaps if Bielema and Franklin stick around the conference long enough, and enjoy a high level of success, the bulletin board will fill up a bit more.

### THE NEW WORLD

This marks the final year of the BCS era. So why would the SEC, having won seven BCS championships in a row, have led the fight for a four-team playoff?

Because there's nothing to suggest the conference won't dominate the coming format, and make even more money in the process. SEC teams went 6-3 in bowls last year, and since 1996 the conference has a .614 bowl winning percentage. The only bowl season it had a losing record was 2002.

Yes, there have been some duds for the conference. Those have usually involved games against upstarts from outside the five major conferences:

Florida losing to Louisville last season, Alabama falling to Utah in January 2009.

But the SEC is not only unbeaten in the last seven BCS Championship Games (not counting LSU losing to



Nick Saban celebrates yet another BCS title.

Alabama in 2012), but the conference has won four out of the past five Capital One Bowls, nine of the past 10 Cotton Bowls and three of the past four Outback Bowls. Those are the SEC's top bowl tie-ins after the BCS. (SEC teams have lost three of the past four Sugar Bowls, but prior to that the league had won six of the previous seven.)

Given all that, the SEC is pretty confident it can still dominate the new system. That's why it also pushed to de-emphasize conference affiliation when it comes to picking the BCS bowls that don't involve the four-team playoff. Last year's final BCS standings (prior to the bowls) had six SEC teams in the top 10.

So if that many teams potentially could have been in BCS bowls, but only two made it in the BCS last year, what reason did the SEC have to keep the old system? None, that's why Mike Slive and company led the charge for change.

### THIRD TIME'S A CHARM?

Georgia is obviously hoping to get back to the SEC Championship Game, and will be favored by many to do so. But if the Bulldogs get there and lose again, they will have a strange distinction: The first team in major conference history to lose three straight championship games.

Alabama is the only other SEC team that has lost it twice in a row, 1993 and 1994. (The Crimson Tide also lost in 1996 and 2008.)

But Georgia is also seeking to become just the third SEC team to reach the championship three times in a row, and the first since Florida and Alabama met in the first three SEC championship games. (Florida made it five in a row, winning it from 1992-96.)

## GAMES TO WATCH

### Sept. 7 South Carolina at Georgia

The Gamecocks have won three in a row over their border rivals, and the Bulldogs are antsy to end the streak.

### Sept. 14 Alabama at Texas A&M

The reigning champs go into College Station to face the reigning Heisman winner, whose team also happens to be the last to knock off the Crimson Tide.

### Sept. 28 LSU at Georgia

Former Georgia quarterback Zach Mettenberger returns to Athens with LSU in a game that could have implications for both division titles.

### Sept. 28 Texas A&M at Arkansas

Bret Bielema coaches his first SEC game, and with the Aggies and Johnny Manziel it should be a high-scoring affair with a lot of rushing yards.

### Oct. 12 Florida at LSU

If either or both of these perennial contenders are still in the running for their divisions, or a national title, this game could be the early knockout.

### Nov. 2 Georgia vs. Florida (Jacksonville)

After years of futility against their main rivals, Georgia is seeking a third straight win in a game that always seems to have national implications.



Todd Gurley, Georgia

### Nov. 9 LSU at Alabama

If these teams can survive their tough tests earlier in the season, this will be just as anticipated as the previous showdowns.

### Nov. 16 Florida at South Carolina

Barring a surprise, the East Division winner will again be one of these two teams or Georgia, and this is the final matchup involving two of these three teams.

### Nov. 23 Texas A&M at LSU

The Aggies make a much-anticipated trip to Death Valley in a game that will be exciting whether or not either is in contention for something.

### Nov. 30 Ole Miss at Mississippi State

This year's Egg Bowl will see Dan Mullen seeking to re-establish dominance in the state over Hugh Freeze and his bally-hooed recruits.





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## SEC COORDINATOR CAROUSEL

### Arkansas Offensive Coordinator

Old: Paul Petrino; New: Jim Chaney

Petrino is now the head coach at Idaho. Chaney previously served as the OC at Tennessee, with one year under Lane Kiffin and three under Derek Dooley.

### Arkansas Defensive Coordinator

Old: Paul Haynes; New: Chris Ash

Haynes is now the head coach at Kent State, his alma mater. Ash spent the previous three seasons on Bret Bielema's staff at Wisconsin.

### Auburn Offensive Coordinator

Old: Scot Loeffler; New: Rhett Lashlee, Dameyune Craig

Loeffler, who was only at Auburn for one season, landed on his feet as the offensive coordinator at Virginia Tech. Lashlee was the offensive coordinator under Gus Malzahn at Arkansas State last season. Craig was the quarterbacks coach at Florida State. Malzahn will call the plays.

### Auburn Defensive Coordinator

Old: Brian VanGorder; New: Ellis Johnson, Charlie Harbison

VanGorder returned to the NFL as the linebackers coach with the Jets. Johnson was fired after one season as the head coach at Southern Miss. Harbison was the co-defensive coordinator at Clemson for the past four seasons.

### Florida Defensive Coordinator

Old: Dan Quinn; New: D.J. Durkin

Quinn is now the defensive coordinator of the Seattle Seahawks. Durkin previously was the linebackers coach and special teams coordinator at Florida.

### Kentucky Offensive Coordinator

Old: Randy Sanders; New: Neal Brown

Sanders is now the running backs coach at Florida State. Brown, a Kentucky grad, had been the offensive coordinator at Texas Tech the past three seasons.

### Kentucky Defensive Coordinator

Old: Rick Minter; New: D.J. Elliott

Minter, not retained by the new staff, is now the linebackers coach for the Philadelphia Eagles. Elliott previously was the defensive ends coach at Florida State, where he worked for new Kentucky coach Mark Stoops.

### LSU Offensive Coordinator

Old: Greg Studrawa; New: Cam Cameron

Studrawa, the offensive coordinator at LSU the past two seasons, will remain on staff as the Tigers' O-line coach. Cameron was the OC with the Baltimore Ravens from 2008 through Week 14 of the 2012 season, when he was fired.

### Missouri Offensive Coordinator

Old: David Yost; New: Josh Henson

Yost resigned under pressure in December after Missouri averaged 35.4 yards per game in 2012 — the lowest at the school since 2004. He was hired in January by Washington State as the inside receivers coach. Henson had been Missouri's co-offensive line coach since 2009.

### Mississippi State Defensive Coordinator

Old: Geoff Collins, Chris Wilson; New: Geoff Collins

Wilson was stripped of his title as co-defensive coordinator and then left the school to take the job as defensive line coach at Georgia. Collins had been the co-defensive coordinator and linebackers coach.

### Ole Miss Defensive Coordinator

Old: Dave Wommack, Wesley McGriff; New: Dave Wommack, Jason Jones

McGriff left after Signing Day and is now the secondary coach of the New Orleans Saints. Jones had been the cornerbacks coach at Oklahoma State for the past five seasons.

### Tennessee Offensive Coordinator

Old: Jim Chaney; New: Mike Bajakian

Chaney was not retained by the new staff, but landed as the offensive coordinator at Arkansas. Bajakian was previously the offensive coordinator at Cincinnati (2010-12) and Central Michigan (2007-09).

### Tennessee Defensive Coordinator

Old: Sal Sunseri; New: John Jancek

Sunseri is now the defensive ends coach at Florida State. Jancek was the defensive coordinator at Cincinnati from 2010-12. He previously served in the SEC from 2005-09, as a linebackers coach ('05-08) and a co-defensive coordinator ('09).

### Texas A&M Offensive Coordinator

Old: Kliff Kingsbury; New: Clarence McKinney, Jake Spavital

Kingsbury is now the head coach at Texas Tech. McKinney was the Aggies' running backs coach last season. Spavital had been the quarterbacks coach at West Virginia the previous two seasons. He was a grad assistant at Houston in 2009 under Kevin Sumlin.

## 2013 TOP UNITS

### Quarterbacks — Texas A&M

Johnny Manziel turned in one of college football's best freshman seasons of all-time in 2012, throwing for 3,706 yards and 26 touchdowns and rushing for 1,410 yards and 21 scores. He averaged 373.4 yards per game and tossed only six interceptions in 284 attempts during SEC play. With the departures of left tackle Luke Joeckel, receiver Ryan Swope and offensive coordinator Kliff Kingsbury, Manziel may have trouble repeating last season's numbers. However, the reigning Heisman Trophy winner should have an outstanding 2013 season.

### Running Backs — Georgia

After standout freshman seasons, Todd Gurley and Keith Marshall could be the best one-two combination in the nation. The duo combined for 2,144 yards and 25 touchdowns last season. Gurley earned first-team All-SEC honors last year, and his 1,385 rushing yards ranked second in school history by a freshman. Incoming freshmen A.J. Turman or Brendan Douglas will be needed for depth.

### Receivers/Tight Ends — Alabama

Thanks to some of the nation's top recruiting classes over the last few years, Alabama has assembled a deep group of receiving threats for quarterback AJ McCarron. Amari Cooper is the No. 1 target after catching 59 passes for 1,000 yards last year. Seniors Kevin Norwood and Kenny Bell and juniors DeAndrew White and Christion Jones are back as key contributors, but freshman Chris Black is ready to emerge as the team's No. 2 option. True freshman tight end O.J. Howard could be in for a breakout season.

### Offensive Linemen — Tennessee

With a new quarterback and a revamped receiving corps, Tennessee will lean heavily on its offensive line to carry the offense in 2013. The line is anchored by future NFL first-round pick Antonio Richardson. He started all 12 games and earned

second-team All-SEC honors last year. Joining Richardson in the starting lineup as returning starters will be center James Stone (27 career starts) and seniors Zach Fulton and Ja'Wuan James (37 consecutive starts). Senior Alex Bullard and junior Marcus Jackson are battling to replace departed guard Dallas Thomas.

### Defensive Linemen — South Carolina

The Gamecocks must replace end Devin Taylor and tackle Byron Jerideau, but the line still ranks as the best in the SEC. Defensive players don't often get much attention for the Heisman Trophy, but Jadeveon Clowney will be in the discussion this year. Chaz Sutton made only one start last year but recorded five sacks. He will flank Clowney at end, with Darius English providing depth. Junior Kely Quarles is primed for a breakout year at tackle after registering seven tackles for a loss last season.

### Linebackers — Alabama

The backbone of Alabama's defense in 2013 should be the linebackers. C.J. Mosley is the group's headliner. Junior Trey DePriest will join Mosley in the middle after ranking second on the team with 59 stops in 2012. The outside linebacker spots belong to Adrian Hubbard and Xavier Dickson. They combined for 10.5 sacks last season — a number coach Nick Saban wants to increase in 2013. Depth isn't an issue, especially with top recruit Reuben Foster arriving in the fall.

### Defensive Backs — Florida

The Gators ranked 17th nationally against the pass last year and allowed just seven passing TDs. Safeties Matt Elam and Josh Evans depart, but cornerbacks Marcus Roberson (a second-team All-SEC selection in '12) and Loucheiz Purify are back, and highly-touted true freshman Vernon Hargreaves III will provide depth. At safety, Jaylen Watkins will start after shifting from cornerback, while Cody Riggs is back after missing most of 2012 due to injury.

## 2013 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ALABAMA	2	2	1	4	3	1	2
ARKANSAS	13	14	10	13	4	12	13
AUBURN	14	7	11	12	10	13	10
FLORIDA	8	12	9	6	2	4	1
GEORGIA	3	1	2	3	9	8	8
KENTUCKY	11	13	14	14	11	9	14
LSU	7	5	4	5	5	2	4
MISSISSIPPI STATE	5	4	13	7	8	7	9
MISSOURI	9	10	7	11	14	11	11
OLE MISS	6	8	5	9	7	3	7
SOUTH CAROLINA	4	11	8	10	1	14	5
TENNESSEE	12	6	12	1	12	5	12
TEXAS A&M	1	3	6	2	13	10	6
VANDERBILT	10	9	3	8	6	6	3





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Jordan Matthews, Vanderbilt

## SEC PREVIEW



### 2012 SEC STANDINGS

EAST	SEC	OVERALL
GEORGIA	7-1	12-2
FLORIDA	7-1	11-2
SOUTH CAROLINA	6-2	11-2
VANDERBILT	5-3	9-4
MISSOURI	2-6	5-7
TENNESSEE	1-7	5-7
KENTUCKY	0-8	2-10

WEST	SEC	OVERALL
ALABAMA	7-1	13-1
LSU	6-2	10-3
TEXAS A&M	6-2	11-2
MISSISSIPPI STATE	4-4	8-5
OLE MISS	3-5	7-6
ARKANSAS	2-6	4-8
AUBURN	0-8	3-9

### SEC RETURNING LEADERS

Passing	ATT	COMP	INT	PCT	YDS	TD	AVG/G
Johnny Manziel, Texas A&M	434	295	9	68.0	3,706	26	285.1
Aaron Murray, Georgia	386	249	10	64.5	3,893	36	278.1
Bo Wallace, Ole Miss	368	235	17	63.9	2,994	22	230.3

Rushing	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	AVG/G	LONG
Johnny Manziel, Texas A&M	201	1,410	7.0	21	108.5	72
Todd Gurley, Georgia	222	1,385	6.2	17	98.9	55
LaDarius Perkins, Mississippi State	205	1,024	5.0	8	85.3	64

Receiving	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	AVG/G	LONG
Jordan Matthews, Vanderbilt	94	1,323	14.1	8	101.8	78
Mike Evans, Texas A&M	82	1,105	13.5	5	85.0	75
Donte Moncrief, Ole Miss	66	979	14.8	10	75.3	77

**Tackles:** A.J. Johnson, Tennessee (138); Avery Williamson, Kentucky (135)

**Sacks:** Jadeveon Clowney, South Carolina (13); Chris Smith, Arkansas (9.5)

**Interceptions:** Ha Ha Clinton-Dix (5); Byron Moore, Tennessee (5)

### 2012 SEC BOWL RESULTS

Music City Bowl Dec. 31 Nashville, Tenn. Vanderbilt 38, NC State 24

Chick-fil-A Bowl Dec. 31 Atlanta, Ga. Clemson 25, LSU 24

TaxSlayer.com Bowl Jan. 1 Jacksonville, Fla. Northwestern 34, Mississippi State 20

Outback Bowl Jan. 1 Tampa, Fla. South Carolina 33, Michigan 28

Capital One Bowl Jan. 1 Orlando, Fla. Georgia 45, Nebraska 31

Sugar Bowl Jan. 2 New Orleans, La. Louisville 33, Florida 23

Cotton Bowl Jan. 4 Arlington, Texas Texas A&M 41, Oklahoma 13

Compass Bowl Jan. 5 Birmingham, Ala. Ole Miss 38, Pittsburgh 17

BCS National Championship Jan. 7 Miami, Fla. Alabama 42, Notre Dame 14

### 2013 SEC BOWL TIE-INS

BCS - SEC No. 1 vs. BCS // Capital One - SEC No. 2 vs. Big Ten No. 2

Outback - SEC No. 3/4 vs. Big Ten No. 3 // Cotton - SEC No. 3/4 vs. Big 12 No. 2

Chick-fil-A - SEC No. 5 vs. ACC No. 2 // Gator - SEC No. 6 vs. Big Ten No. 4/5

Music City - SEC No. 7 vs. ACC No. 6 // Liberty - SEC No. 8/9 vs. C-USA No. 1

BBVA Compass - SEC No. 8/9 vs. American // AdvoCare V100 - SEC No. 10 vs. ACC No. 7

### 2012 SEC TEAM STATS & RANKINGS

#### OFFENSE

	Scoring	Rush	Pass	Total
ALABAMA	38.7 (2)	227.5 (2)	218.0 (8)	445.5 (4)
ARKANSAS	23.5 (12)	118.7 (14)	301.5 (3)	420.2 (6)
AUBURN	18.7 (13)	148.4 (9)	156.6 (13)	305.0 (14)
FLORIDA	26.5 (10)	188.1 (3)	146.3 (14)	334.4 (12)
GEORGIA	37.8 (3)	182.6 (4)	285.1 (4)	467.6 (3)
KENTUCKY	17.9 (14)	138.8 (11)	176.3 (12)	315.0 (13)
LSU	29.8 (8)	173.7 (6)	200.5 (11)	374.2 (10)
MISSISSIPPI STATE	29.5 (9)	144.2 (10)	237.8 (7)	381.9 (7)
MISSOURI	25.8 (11)	138.5 (12)	217.9 (9)	356.4 (11)
OLE MISS	31.5 (6)	173.9 (5)	249.9 (5)	423.8 (5)
SOUTH CAROLINA	31.5 (5)	138.5 (13)	238.1 (6)	376.5 (9)
TENNESSEE	36.2 (4)	160.3 (8)	315.6 (2)	475.9 (2)
TEXAS A&M	44.5 (1)	242.1 (1)	316.5 (1)	558.5 (1)
VANDERBILT	30.0 (7)	166.3 (7)	213.4 (10)	379.7 (8)

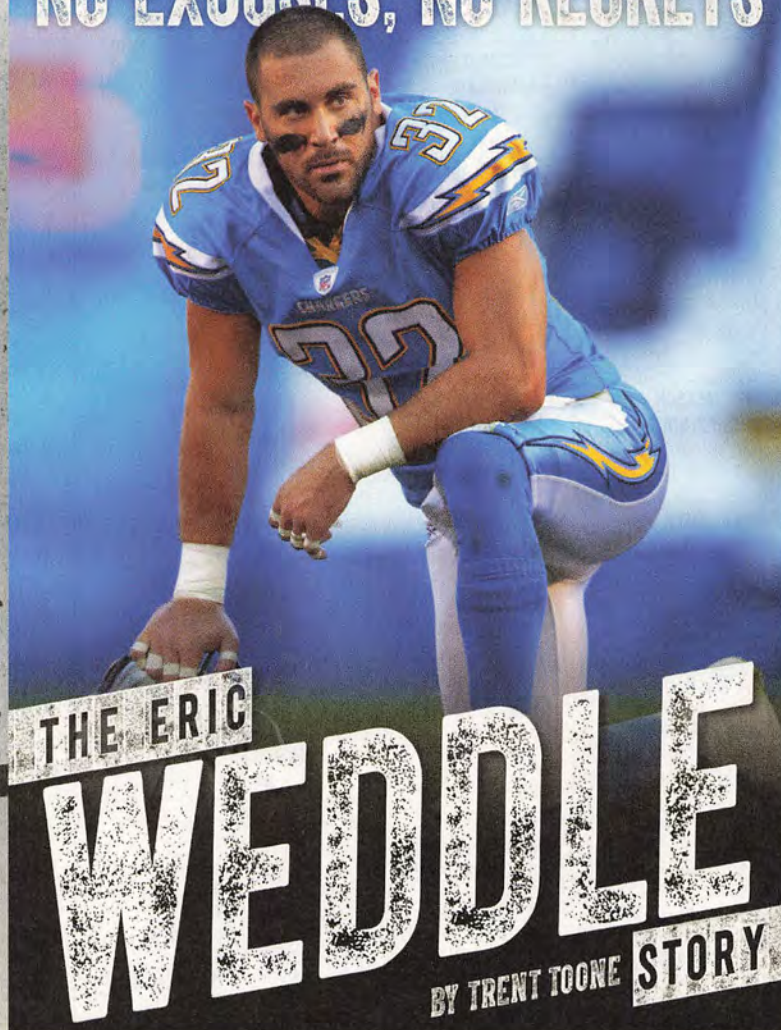
#### DEFENSE

	Scoring	Rush	Pass	Total
ALABAMA	10.9 (1)	76.4 (1)	173.6 (1)	250.0 (1)
ARKANSAS	30.4 (12)	124.1 (5)	285.8 (14)	409.9 (12)
AUBURN	28.3 (10)	197.6 (14)	222.9 (8)	420.5 (13)
FLORIDA	14.5 (2)	94.9 (2)	192.5 (4)	287.5 (2)
GEORGIA	19.6 (6)	182.1 (12)	175.6 (2)	357.8 (6)
KENTUCKY	31.0 (13)	161.3 (10)	229.8 (9)	391.0 (11)
LSU	17.5 (3)	101.6 (3)	206.0 (6)	307.6 (3)
MISSISSIPPI STATE	23.3 (8)	165.6 (11)	221.8 (7)	387.4 (8)
MISSOURI	28.4 (11)	149.3 (9)	241.4 (10)	390.7 (10)
OLE MISS	27.6 (9)	129.3 (6)	246.5 (11)	375.9 (7)
SOUTH CAROLINA	18.2 (4)	120.7 (4)	194.9 (5)	315.5 (4)
TENNESSEE	35.7 (14)	188.8 (13)	282.5 (13)	471.3 (14)
TEXAS A&M	21.8 (7)	139.5 (7)	250.7 (12)	390.2 (9)
VANDERBILT	18.7 (5)	142.2 (8)	191.8 (3)	333.9 (5)



"Eric's story demonstrates that you don't have to be the biggest, the strongest, or the fastest to defy the odds and achieve your goals." —Adam Scheffer, NFL Insider for ESPN

# NO EXCUSES, NO REGRETS



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## OFFENSE

## ALL-SEC FIRST-TEAM

## DEFENSE

SEC  
PREVIEW

QB

**JOHNNY MANZIEL**  
TEXAS A&M  
6-1, 200, So.

**RB TODD GURLEY**  
GEORGIA  
6-1, 218, So.

**WR AMARI COOPER**  
ALABAMA  
6-1, 208 Jr.

**WR JORDAN MATTHEWS**  
VANDERBILT  
6-3, 205, Sr.

**CTRAVIS SWANSON**  
ARKANSAS  
6-5, 314, Sr.

**TCYRUS KOUANDJIO**  
ALABAMA  
6-6, 310, Jr.

**TJAKE MATTHEWS**  
TEXAS A&M  
6-5, 305, Sr.



**RB T. YELDON**  
ALABAMA  
6-2, 218, So.

**TEARTHUR LYNCH**  
GEORGIA  
6-5, 258, Sr.

**GGABE JACKSON**  
MISSISSIPPI STATE  
6-4, 335, Sr.

**GANTHONY STEEN**  
ALABAMA  
6-3, 309, Sr.

**KCAREY SPEAR**  
VANDERBILT  
5-10, 190, Sr.

**PKYLE CHRISTY**  
FLORIDA  
6-3, 193, Jr.

**JADEVEON CLOWNEY**  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
6-6, 272, Jr.

**DECHRIS SMITH**  
ARKANSAS  
6-3, 266, Sr.

**DTDOMINIQUE EASLEY**  
FLORIDA  
6-2, 283, Sr.

**LB A. J. JOHNSON**  
TENNESSEE  
6-2, 240 Jr.

**LB C. J. MOSLEY**  
ALABAMA  
6-2, 232, Sr.

**SHA HA CLINTON-DIX**  
ALABAMA  
6-1, 208, Jr.

**SCRAIG LOSTON**  
LSU  
6-2, 205, Sr.

DE



**DTANTHONY JOHNSON**  
LSU  
6-3, 304, Jr.

**LB JORDAN JENKINS**  
GEORGIA  
6-3, 257, So.

**CBANDRE HAL**  
VANDERBILT  
6-0, 184, Sr.

**CBLOUCHEIZ PURIFOY**  
FLORIDA  
6-1, 185, Jr.

**KRANDRE DEBOSE**  
FLORIDA  
5-11, 189, Sr.

**PRMARCUS MURPHY**  
MISSOURI  
5-9, 185, Jr.

## RECRUITING

## THE SEC TOP 30 SIGNEES

- Robert Nkemdiche, Ole Miss  
DL, 6-5, 270 Loganville, GA
- Vernon Hargreaves III, Florida  
DB, 5-11, 185 Tampa, FL
- Laremy Tunsil, Ole Miss  
OL, 6-6, 320 Lake City, FL
- Reuben Foster, Alabama  
LB, 6-1, 244 Auburn, AL
- Montravius Adams, Auburn  
DL, 6-3, 315 Vienna, GA
- Derrick Henry, Alabama  
RB, 6-3, 242 Yulee, FL
- Laquon Treadwell, Ole Miss  
WR, 6-3, 198 Crete, IL
- Jonathan Allen, Alabama  
LB, 6-3, 264 Leesburg, VA
- Chris Jones, Mississippi State  
DL, 6-5, 250 Houston, MS
- O. J. Howard, Alabama  
TE, 6-6, 235 Prattville, AL
- Carl Lawson, Auburn  
OL, 6-2, 250 Alpharetta, GA
- Kelvin Taylor, Florida  
RB, 5-10, 205 Belle Glade, FL
- Robert Foster, Alabama  
WR, 6-3, 187 Monaca, PA
- Ricky Seals-Jones, Texas A&M  
WR, 6-5, 225 Sealy, TX
- Tony Conner, Ole Miss  
DB, 6-2, 216 Batesville, MS
- A'Shawn Robinson, Alabama  
DL, 6-4, 320 Ft. Worth, TX
- Alex Collins, Arkansas  
RB, 5-11, 207 Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Alvin Kamara, Alabama  
RB, 5-10, 195 Norcross, GA
- Tre'Davious White, LSU  
DB, 5-10, 170 Shreveport, LA
- Dee Liner, Alabama  
DL, 6-3, 281 Muscle Shoals, AL
- Elijah Daniel, Auburn  
DL, 6-4, 250 Avon, IN
- Altee Tenpenny, Alabama  
RB, 6-0, 207 North Little Rock, AR
- Alexander Anzalone, Florida  
LB, 6-3, 220 Wyomissing, PA
- Daniel McMillian, Florida  
LB, 6-3, 220 Jacksonville, FL
- Ethan Pocic, LSU  
OL, 6-7, 285 Lemont, IL
- Grant Hill, Alabama  
OL, 6-6, 301 Huntsville, AL
- Tyren Jones, Alabama  
RB, 5-9, 215 Marietta, GA
- Frank Herron, LSU  
DL, 6-5, 245 Memphis, TN
- Greg Gilmore, LSU  
DL, 6-4, 275 Hope Mills, NC
- Justin Manning, Texas A&M  
DL, 6-1, 270 Dallas, TX

## SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	AJ MCCARRON	6-4	214	Sr.	Alabama
RB	KEITH MARSHALL	5-11	216	So.	Georgia
RB	LADARIUS PERKINS	5-10	195	Sr.	Mississippi State
WR	MIKE EVANS	6-5	225	So.	Texas A&M
WR	DONTE MONCRIEF	6-3	216	Jr.	Ole Miss
TE	RORY ANDERSON	6-5	218	Jr.	South Carolina
C	JAMES STONE	6-3	300	Sr.	Tennessee
G	CHRIS BURNETTE	6-2	322	Sr.	Georgia
G	AARON MORRIS	6-5	330	Jr.	Ole Miss
T	WESLEY JOHNSON	6-5	285	Sr.	Vanderbilt
T	ANTONIO RICHARDSON	6-6	332	Jr.	Tennessee

## SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	ALVIN DUPREE	6-4	254	Jr.	Kentucky
DE	C. J. JOHNSON	6-3	233	Jr.	Ole Miss
DT	BYRAN JONES	6-2	310	Sr.	Arkansas
DT	KELCY QUARLES	6-4	293	Jr.	South Carolina
LB	LAMIN BARROW	6-2	232	Sr.	LSU
LB	ADRIAN HUBBARD	6-6	252	Jr.	Alabama
LB	DENZEL NKEMDICHE	5-11	203	So.	Ole Miss
CB	DESHAZOR EVERETT	6-0	185	Jr.	Texas A&M
CB	MARCUS ROBERSON	6-0	178	So.	Florida
S	KENNY LADLER	6-0	205	Sr.	Vanderbilt
S	NICKOE WHITLEY	6-1	205	Sr.	Mississippi State

## SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	CODY PARKER	6-0	186	Sr.	Auburn
P	STEVEN CLARK	6-5	232	Sr.	Auburn
KR	MARCUS MURPHY	5-9	185	Jr.	Missouri
PR	JONATHAN KRAUSE	5-11	182	Sr.	Vanderbilt

## THIRD-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	AARON MURRAY	6-1	210	Sr.	Georgia
RB	BEN MALENA	5-8	195	Sr.	Texas A&M
RB	TRE MASON	5-10	196	Jr.	Auburn
WR	ODELL BECKHAM JR.	6-0	187	Jr.	LSU
WR	MALCOLM MITCHELL	6-1	192	Jr.	Georgia
TE	MALCOLM JOHNSON	6-2	235	Jr.	Mississippi State
C	RYAN KELLY	6-5	290	So.	Alabama
G	JON HALAPIO	6-3	315	Sr.	Florida
G	JARVIS HARRISON	6-4	320	Jr.	Texas A&M
T	JAWUAN JAMES	6-6	323	Sr.	Tennessee
T	CEDRIC OGBUEHI	6-5	300	Jr.	Texas A&M

## THIRD-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	DENICO AUTRY	6-6	265	Sr.	Mississippi State
DE	WALKER MAY	6-5	250	Sr.	Vanderbilt
DT	DANIEL MCCULLERS	6-8	360	Sr.	Tennessee
DT	DONTE RUMPH	6-3	323	Sr.	Kentucky
LB	BENARDICK MCKINNEY	6-5	235	So.	Mississippi State
LB	ANTONIO MORRISON	6-1	229	So.	Florida
LB	AVERY WILLIAMSON	6-1	241	Sr.	Kentucky
CB	E. J. GAINES	5-10	195	Sr.	Missouri
CB	DAMIAN SWANN	5-11	189	Jr.	Georgia
S	ERIC BENNETT	6-0	191	Sr.	Arkansas
S	CODY PREWITT	6-2	214	Jr.	Ole Miss

## THIRD-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	ZACH HOCKER	6-0	182	Sr.	Arkansas
P	TYLER CAMPBELL	6-2	235	Sr.	Ole Miss
KR	TREY WILLIAMS	5-8	185	So.	Texas A&M
PR	ODELL BECKHAM JR.	6-0	187	Jr.	LSU

## RECRUITING BY SCHOOL

1. Alabama 2. Florida 3. Ole Miss 4. LSU 5. Texas A&M 6. Auburn 7. Georgia 8. South Carolina  
9. Mississippi State 10. Vanderbilt 11. Tennessee 12. Arkansas 13. Kentucky 14. Missouri





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# INTO THE FIRE

Four new SEC coaches — four different stories

by Michael Bradley



So, you want to coach in the SEC, do you? Eager to test yourself in the nation's best league? Well, first consider that the four most recently deposed coaches lasted a combined 11 years and posted an aggregate record of 65–72.

Take away Auburn's 2010 national title season, and it's 51–72.

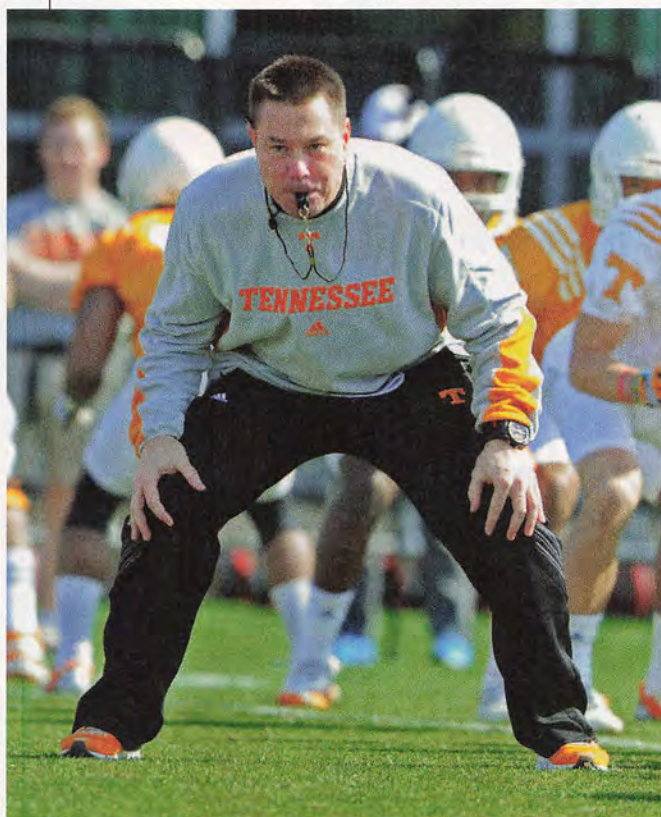
It's not easy in college football's toughest neighborhood. Four coaches were fired after last year, leaving their replacements to rebuild against the best competition around. **Mark Stoops at Kentucky** (replacing Joker Phillips), **Gus Malzahn at Auburn** (Gene Chizik), **Butch Jones at Tennessee** (Derek Dooley) and **Bret Bielema at Arkansas** (John L. Smith) are optimistic and ready to go. How far they can go remains to be seen.

## THE EXPERIENCED BUILDER


Someone suggested to Butch Jones that a good person to include in the Tennessee football history lesson he is providing for his players would be Herman Hickman. The big guard was named an All-American in 1931 for the Vols, and legendary coach Robert Neyland once called him "the greatest guard football has ever known."

"I'm going to Google him right away," Jones said, enthusiastically.

If you're going to play for UT this season, you had better know about the people who went before you. Better have memorized the history of your number, too. That means quarterback Justin Wor-







"I told the media when I took the job on December 5th that I was excited. Multiply that by 1,000 now."  
— Arkansas coach Bret Bielema

## HAIL, HAIL, THE GANG'S ALL HERE

When Bret Bielema left Wisconsin for Arkansas, he wasn't too shy about his reasons. Sure he was making more money himself — \$3.2 million per, up from \$2.6 mil — but more important, he wouldn't have to worry about losing assistants to other schools because of salary concerns.

But would that really be the case in Fayetteville? In February, Bielema found out. Another SEC school — reported to be Alabama — was after offensive line coach Sam Pittman, who had joined the Razorbacks staff after working at Tennessee. The Tide were certainly offering more than the \$275,000 Pittman was scheduled to earn in 2013 and '14.

So what would the Hogs do? As it turns out, plenty. Arkansas gave Pittman a big raise, up to \$500K, mak-

ing him the third-highest compensated assistant on the staff. Bielema had his answer.

"They stepped up beyond my expectations to retain (Pittman)," Bielema says.

Now that he has his people — and a commitment from the school to keep them — Bielema can focus on erasing the horrible memories of the last year-plus of Arkansas football. What was supposed to be a glorious 2012 season turned into a nightmare, thanks to Bobby Petrino's wild ride and the team's inability to keep it together under interim coach John L. Smith. Last season's 4-8 record was a disaster, especially when many were pointing at 2012 as the Hogs' best chance to win the SEC West since '06, thanks to a load of returning talent and home games against Alabama and LSU.

"We've been through a lot, this team and this state," senior center Travis Swanson says. "To get a clean slate and a fresh start is good."

Bielema must now stabilize the program and move it forward in the toughest environment that exists in college football. He has steadfastly refused to comment "on what happened before." Instead, he is focused on bringing his physical style of play to the conference where that is a necessary condition. He's happy to find a group of tight ends "that can have success" and some running backs with talent. "The offensive line has to come along," he says.

Perhaps the biggest thing that must develop is a renewed sense that Arkansas can play winning football. Although Bielema isn't looking back, the program has been wounded. It must rediscover the ability to be consistent and formidable. Bielema and his staff have focused on that since being hired last December.

"He wants us to be 1-0 every day," says senior defensive end Chris Smith, who had 9.5 sacks last year. "We're taking it one day at a time, and we want to keep moving forward. The team has been through a lot. We're ready to move on."

While encouraging his players to win the day, Bielema has also appealed to them with a straightforward approach to conduct. Like a man who believes in a direct running game, he has one overriding maxim: "He's got the 'do-right rule,'" Smith says. "That's one of the things I like about him. He treats us like men."

And Bielema wants them to play like men. His offense may not be a perfect replica of what he did at Wisconsin, but fans can expect the Hogs to be physical. In the SEC, that's just fine. So is the new football building opening in July. And the 20 seniors ready to put the stench of the recent past behind them. Bielema is happy to be where he feels supported, and where he believes winning can happen again.

"I told the media when I took the job on December 5th that I was excited," he says. "Multiply that by 1,000 now."

ley better know that his number 14 was worn by the school's most recent unanimous All-American, Eric Berry. And both Drae Bowles and Michael F. Williams have to realize that Condredge Holloway made lucky 7 a magical number for Vols fans.

Jones' look back means more than just building team unity. He wants to make sure every player who pulls on the "power T" helmet understands that he is part of a program that belongs among the best in college football history. Tennessee isn't some school that needs orange turf to gain attention (although those checkerboard end zones are cool) or has to play its games on Wednesday afternoons in order to get some TV time. Since 1927, UT is the winningest D-I program in America. The Vols have won or tied for 13 SEC titles. Their list of prominent football alumni is long and distinguished.

"When we go on the recruiting trail, we don't have to sell that we are building a tradition," Jones says. "We have tradition."

Jones took over in December for Derek Dooley, who was fired after three straight losing seasons — his only three at the helm — leaving many wondering why the Vols had dipped down to Louisiana Tech to get Dooley in the first place. Some fans were livid that a reported four candidates to replace Dooley (Mike Gundy, Charlie Strong, Jon Gruden, Larry Fedora) turned down the position before Jones came aboard. While Jones' head coaching pedigree — 50-27 in three seasons each at Central Michigan and Cincinnati — has no SEC hue, there can be no arguing with his results. When it comes to running a program, he knows what to do. He won two division titles at CMU and tied for two Big East titles at Cincinnati.

"It's about having a plan and not wavering from that plan," Jones says. "This is not the first time we're doing this. It's the third."

Jones brings an infectious enthusiasm. Watch tape of him at a practice, and you see constant energy. His idea of having the UT players learn about the program plays well with his vision for them. He wants to recreate the Tennessee glory days, when double-digit win totals were de rigueur, and All-Americans dashed across the pristine Neyland Stadium turf. To do that, he has had to eliminate the torpor that characterized Dooley's tenure, eradicate the brief (one year) memory of Lane Kiffin's time in Knoxville and give amnesia to those who recall the last days of Phillip Fulmer, which included two losing seasons in four years.

"There is definitely a change in the culture," senior offensive lineman Ju'wan James says. "These (coaches) are connected to us. There are a lot of young guys who can relate to us. It's a family-oriented atmosphere, and everything here is about tempo, especially at practice."

Jones wants to move quickly into the future with an eye on Tennessee's past. His offense will play fast. His defense will run swiftly. And everybody — including the head coach — will soon know who Herman Hickman was.

"When we go on the recruiting trail, we don't have to sell that we are building a tradition. We have tradition."

— Tennessee coach Butch Jones



## WELCOME BACK

When Gus Malzahn last saw Auburn, before the 2012 debacle, the Tigers had followed up their 2010 national championship with an 8–5 season and a bowl win. It wasn't quite up to the standards Cam Newton and Malzahn established, but it sure wasn't 3–9 (0–8 SEC), with a 49–0 loss to Alabama, either. The last time Auburn went winless in the SEC, in 1980, Jimmy Carter hadn't left the White House yet.

Malzahn spent 2012 helping Arkansas State to a Sun Belt title and a bowl victory. He returns to the Plains to find a program that fell apart last year and didn't resemble its championship big brother one bit. Auburn is hurting, and Malzahn inherits some players more than ready to put the embarrassment and hurt in a sack and throw it into the Chattahoochee River.

"It was a rocky road," says senior defensive end Nosa Eguae. "As a guy who was there for the national championship, to go where we were last year, you learn a lot. When you face adversity, that's when you see the real person you are."

"Things didn't go our way. We're going to learn from that and get better."

Because he spent three seasons coordinating the offense at Auburn, Malzahn doesn't come to town wondering where he can get a good glass of lemonade. He knows the traditions, the expectations and the somewhat Byzantine alumni structure that characterizes the program. He even knows a lot of the players like Eguae, who came to campus when he was here. That's all good news. "It's very helpful to understand the dynamics and history and how things work," Malzahn says.

That knowledge will help Malzahn understand that 3–9 seasons aren't tolerated at Auburn. The good news is that he isn't too fond of them, either. And given his ability to teach offense, it's a good bet the Tiger program won't be floundering for long. During his first year running the offense, Auburn jumped from 104th to 16th in the nation in yards per game. During the '10 campaign, the Tigers led the SEC in just about every offensive category of note.

The beauty of it is that Malzahn's attack isn't just a spread-'em and shred-'em scheme. It begins with a power ground attack. Really. Last year at ASU, the Red Wolves ran the ball an average of 41.5 times, nearly 10 more than they threw it. Arkansas State averaged 206.2 yards on the ground and 260.5 through the air. That's the kind of balance and production that wins championships.

"If you look at the last seven years I coached offense, it's clear we're going to run the football," Malzahn says. "We're committed to that, and I truly believe it's part of being successful in this league."

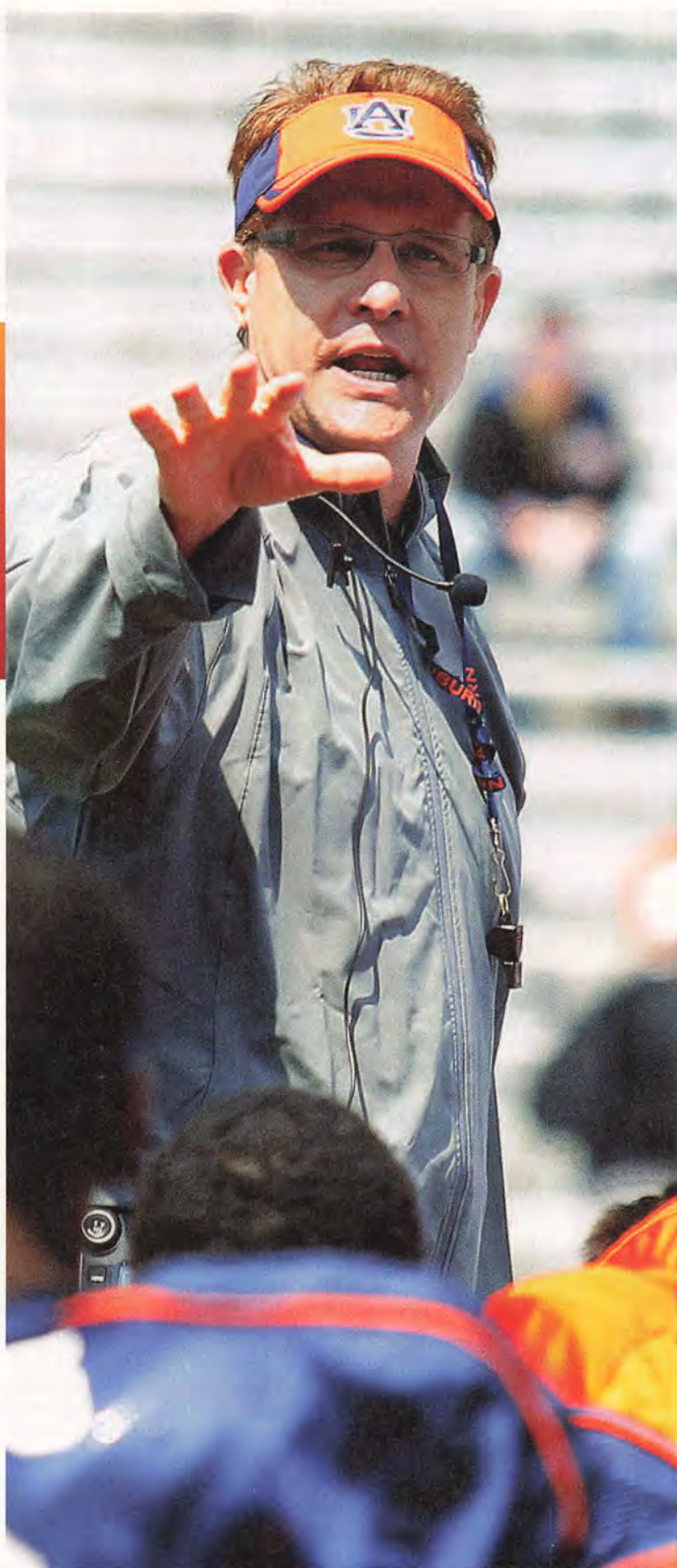
While Malzahn builds an offense physical enough to compete in the SEC, he must also restore the "edge" Auburn had when it was successful. Malzahn speaks of returning to the school's blue-collar roots. He'll do it with his trademark dry wit, incredible attention to detail and mandate that the players forget everything that has happened and concentrate on doing the right things to make sure wins come in the future. The year at ASU helped him learn what a head coach must do to install his plan and lead a team. Now, he must get his players to the point where they can win again.

"We're working hard every single day," Eguae says. "Coach Malzahn is not satisfied with a subpar day."

And especially not a subpar year.

**"If you look at the last seven years I coached offense, it's clear we're going to run the football. We're committed to that, and I truly believe it's part of being successful in this league."**

— Auburn coach  
Gus Malzahn





# SMOOTH SAILING

When Kentucky's men's basketball team lost a first-round NIT decision to Robert Morris, there were giggles around the country. The mighty Wildcats had not only failed to defend their national championship, but they had also crapped out in the consolation tournament.

The good news for the UK football team was that the hoops squad's ugly exit diverted people's attention from the work that must be done to rebuild a program that was 2-10 without an SEC victory last year and came within 10 points of a conference foe only once. But make no mistake: The work is being done. And, unlike last year, it's being done willingly and happily. Okay, so running and lifting at 6 a.m. isn't anybody's idea of fun, but there is no drama now that Mark Stoops has taken over the program.

"Everyone was on time for weights and training this winter," says junior defensive end Alvin Dupree, who had 6.5 sacks among his 91 tackles in 2012. "Last year, we had conflicts, and people were doing their own things. The team mindset has changed, and we're all buying into the new program."

Stoops comes to Lexington after spending three seasons as defensive coordinator at Florida State, following six years at Arizona running that side of the ball. He is a decidedly no-nonsense type who believes heavily in the value of a proper mentality. In that regard, Dupree's statements have made the new coach feel good.

But Stoops faces the toughest job of the four new coaches in the SEC. The other three are at programs that have had fairly substantial success over the past 10 years and have largely winning traditions. Although UK won eight games in both 2006 and '07, it hasn't been a factor in the SEC East since the conference split into divisions and hasn't won more than four league games in a season since it went 6-0 in 1977. The program's sole outright title came in 1950 when Bear Bryant was roaming the sidelines in Lexington. (Kentucky tied with Georgia in '77.)

Every new coach talks about the opportunity available at the school

and what it will mean when the program starts to win again, and Stoops is no different. He understands that Kentucky is a basketball school, but he also knows that the SEC is the nation's best football conference.

"That's a big selling point — to play and be a member of this conference," Stoops says. "That's definitely helped us in recruiting."

Stoops has been a big hit with the Kentucky fans, who showed their enthusiasm for the new regime by showing up in full force (an estimated 50,000) to the annual Blue/White Spring Game.

UK fans are hoping they will have something to cheer about on Aug. 31 when the Cats battle Western Kentucky — which beat Kentucky last year in the low point of the Joker Phillips era — at LP Field in Nashville.

First, Stoops must fix a Kentucky defense that struggled in all facets in 2012.

Dupree's efforts notwithstanding, Kentucky allowed opposing passers to complete 67.3 percent of their throws last year and gave up 25 rushing touchdowns. If

UK is to compete, it must do much better than that. Stoops' scheme will allow Wildcat defenders to play more instinctively, as opposed to last year's more complicated approach. It's already a big hit.

"The defense has changed entirely," Dupree says. "We don't have as many plays as we had. Last year, the playbook was like a dictionary. This year, it's a coloring book. It's easier to understand, and the easier it is, the easier it is to go out and make big plays."

"You're not trying to learn a dictionary. You can make plays."

**"That's a big selling point — to play and be a member of this conference. That's definitely helped us in recruiting."**

— Kentucky coach  
Mark Stoops



Malcolm Todd J. Van Emst; Stoops: Chet White/UK Athletics





# FLORIDA GATORS

NATIONAL FORECAST: 13 // SEC EAST PREDICTION: 3

**I**n many respects, Florida started to look like Florida again in Will Muschamp's second season. The Gators won 11 games, reached the Sugar Bowl and finished the season ranked in the top 10. In 2012, Florida won as many games in SEC play (seven) as it won total in Muschamp's entire first season.

That was the season on paper. The season on the field was more tense.

Sure, Florida defeated Texas A&M and Florida State on the road. The Gators beat LSU and South Carolina in Gainesville. But they also needed a blocked punt to put away UL Lafayette (27-20), four interceptions to beat lowly Missouri (14-7) and a fourth quarter surge to finish off Bowling Green (27-14). The high-wire act caught up to Florida with 33-23 loss to Louisville and former UF defensive coordinator Charlie Strong in New Orleans.

Muschamp's second team in Gainesville won games through physical play and a grinding style, but its passing game did not put up a vintage Florida performance. The Gators' 146.3 passing yards per game were their second-lowest for a season since 1979.

The goal for 2013 is to build on the foundation set last season with a tough run game and dominating defense, but the Gators may not be able to take the next step until a passing game develops.

"We can't get away from who we are," Muschamp says. "That's something that's going to be a balancing act for us as we move forward. But I do want to make sure we improve some things in the throwing game. We've got to work on that but not get away from being a physical football team."

**QUARTERBACKS** For the first time in his career, Jeff Driskel enters the season as the clear-cut starting quarterback. The Gators hope this development helps Driskel refine his game. As the primary quarterback, Driskel will need to improve his field vision and ability to read defenses. The junior is mobile, but he needs to do his part to reduce Florida's sack numbers. "A lot of (his improvement) is based around understanding the protections a lot better and when he has to get rid of the ball and where he has to see his reads," offensive coordinator Brent Pease says. Driskel was an efficient passer last season, completing 63.7 percent of his attempts and throwing 12 touchdowns to five interceptions. Driskel's 6.7 yards per attempt, however, ranked last among SEC quarterbacks with at least 200 passes. Florida quarterbacks were sacked three times per game last season, second-most in the SEC. Driskel's ability to run — he rushed for 408 yards in 2012 — could wind up putting the Gators in a bind, though. With the transfer of Jacoby Brissett to NC State, Driskel is the only quarterback on the roster who has thrown a pass. Junior Tyler Murphy has spent three seasons on the scout team, and Skyler Mornhinweg, the son of former Detroit Lions head coach Marty Mornhinweg, is a redshirt freshman. Florida can't afford an injury to Driskel if it hopes to contend in the SEC.

**RUNNING BACKS** First-team All-SEC running back Mike Gillislee was the rock of the offense last season, but Florida has reason for optimism without him. Matt Jones has established himself as the top option here, distancing himself from junior Mack Brown and freshman Kelvin Taylor. Jones is a big, physical back at 6'2", 226 pounds. He can run through contact and could be an anchor for Florida's ball control offense. Taylor, the son of Florida legend Fred Taylor, will be one of the most interesting players to watch here. Hopes will be high for his career after Taylor broke Emmitt Smith's state career rushing record as a junior. Brown has had his chances for more work in the offense but carried only 25 times last season. Florida padded depth at fullback during the spring by moving Gideon Ajagbe and Rhaheim Ledbetter from the defense to back up Hunter Joyer.

**RECEIVERS** Wide receiver has been an area of concern for Florida for three seasons. Coaching turnover, a change in philosophy in the passing game and recruiting missteps have contributed to struggles at wideout. No Florida receiver has caught 40 passes in a season since 2009. Quinton Dun-



QUINTON DUNBAR

## THE VERDICT

### 2013 PROJECTION: 9-3, 5-3 SEC

The Gators ranked among the worst in the SEC in three major offensive categories — passing, total and scoring — last season. Quarterback Jeff Driskel returns, and the offensive line should be strong, but there's a glaring lack of proven playmakers at wide receiver. A new No. 1 tailback needs to emerge due to the loss of first-team All-SEC pick Mike Gillislee. Florida ranked second in the SEC in total defense last year, but this unit loses most of its key players, including safety Matt Elam and tackle Shariff Floyd. A difficult schedule — Miami, LSU, Florida State, Georgia and South Carolina — will make getting back to a BCS bowl a challenge. Postseason: Outback Bowl vs. Nebraska

## 2013 SCHEDULE

### AUGUST

31 Toledo

### SEPTEMBER

7 at Miami (Fla.)

21 Tennessee

28 at Kentucky

### OCTOBER

5 Arkansas

12 at LSU

19 at Missouri

### NOVEMBER

2 vs. Georgia #

9 Vanderbilt

16 at South Carolina

23 Georgia Southern

30 Florida State

# Jacksonville, FL

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Tim Clark/Arkham Sports





QB JEFF  
**DRISKEL**



bar has been the most consistent receiver, but he's better suited to be a secondary option. Andre Debose has the explosiveness to be a top performer, but he's been a headache for coaches. Latroy Pittman was tabbed as a potential breakout player, but he caught only two passes last season. Muschamp experimented in the spring with playing defensive back Loucheiz Purifoy at receiver. He has a nose for making plays, but he's raw as a receiver. Trey Burton's contribution to the offense has been as a "slash" player as a receiver, runner and occasional passer. The door will be wide open for a freshman, perhaps Demarcus Robinson, to contribute. The tight end position is just as unsettled with All-SEC performer Jordan Reed gone. Most of the candidates at the position will be better suited as blockers rather than pass-catchers.

## DEPTH CHART

### OFFENSE (5)

WR	1	Quinton Dunbar (Jr.)	11	Demarcus Robinson (Fr.)
WR	13	Latroy Pittman (So.)	4	Andre Debose (Sr.)
WR	8	Trey Burton (Sr.)	15	Loucheiz Purifoy (Jr.)
LT	70	D.J. Humphries (So.)	74	Trenton Brown (Jr.)
LG	76	Max Garcia (Jr.)	77	Ian Silberman (Jr.)
C	72	Jonathan Harrison (Sr.)	64	Kyle Koehne (Sr.)
RG	67	Jon Halapio (Sr.)	63	Trip Thurman (So.)
RT	73	Tyler Moore (So.)	75	Chaz Green (Jr.)
QB	6	Jeff Driskel (Jr.)	10	Tyler Murphy (Jr.)
FB	41	Hunter Joyer (Jr.)	25	Gideon Ajagbe (Jr.)
RB	24	Matt Jones (So.)	33	Mack Brown (Jr.)

### DEFENSE (3)

DE	90	Jonathan Bullard (So.)	94	Bryan Cox Jr. (So.)
NT	4	Damien Jacobs (Sr.)	44	Leon Orr (Jr.)
DT	2	Dominique Easley (Sr.)	55	Darius Cummings (Jr.)
BUCK	6	Dante Fowler (So.)	7	Ronald Powell (Jr.)
VLB	49	Darrin Kitchens (Sr.)	13	Daniel McMillian (Fr.)
MLB	12	Antonio Morrison (So.)	51	Michael Taylor (Jr.)
SLB	7	Ronald Powell (Jr.)	11	Neiron Ball (Jr.)
CB	15	Loucheiz Purifoy (Jr.)		Vernon Hargreaves III (Fr.)
CB	5	Marcus Roberson (Jr.)	24	Brian Poole (So.)
S	20	Marcus Maye (Fr.)	21	Jabari Gorman (Jr.)
S	14	Jaylen Watkins (Sr.)	31	Cody Riggs (Jr.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	97	Brad Phillips (Sr.)	KR	4	Andre Debose (Sr.)
P	4	Kyle Christy (Jr.)	PR	5	Marcus Roberson (Jr.)



**7** The Florida defense allowed only seven plays of 30 yards or longer in 2012, the fewest in the SEC. LSU was next with 11.

**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** One of the most promising developments during the offseason for the Gators' offense was the improvement of the line. Florida gave up too many sacks last season, but the offense ranked third in the SEC in rushing. This year's line will be bolstered by transfers. Max Garcia (from Maryland) could start at left guard, and Tyler Moore (from Nebraska) could jump ahead of returning starter Chaz Green at right tackle. With Garcia at guard and tackle D.J. Humphries adding weight, the left side of the line could be especially improved. At 280, Humphries is the only projected starter weighing less than 300 pounds. That includes returning starters Jonathan Harrison (center) and Jon Halapio (right guard). The Gators should also have versatility in the second unit with Kyle Koehne able to play anywhere along the line.

**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** Muschamp would prefer to have all his best players on the field at the same time, which presents an interesting dilemma with both Dante Fowler Jr. and Ronald Powell best suited for the "Buck" position, an end/linebacker hybrid. One could end up playing outside linebacker. "We'll do some things to make sure they're both out there and playing," defensive coordinator D.J. Durkin says. Powell, the top-ranked recruit in the 2010 class, missed all of last season and the spring while recovering from a torn ACL. He is expected to return in August. Fowler played over-weight last year and is down from 275 to 263. Dominique Easley, who led the Gators with four sacks last season, can play both defensive end and tackle. If the Gators are thin anywhere, it's at tackle where Sharif Floyd and Omar Hunter departed. Florida needs junior college transfer Darius Cummings to boost the tackle position.

**LINEBACKERS** The linebackers took two big hits with the departures of veterans Jon Bostic and Jelani Jenkins. This will be the most untested part of the defense, but there's room for optimism. Sophomore Antonio Morrison moves from outside linebacker to the middle. He'll be the Gators' best hitter. Against Florida State last season, Morrison delivered a crushing blow to quarterback EJ Manuel to force the fumble that set up Florida's go-ahead score. Freshman Daniel McMillian was one of the breakout players of the spring. He has a knack for being around the ball and could become a starter as a rookie. Alex Anzalone is also expected to see significant playing time as a freshman. Dar-

## TEAM INFORMATION

### HEAD COACH

Will Muschamp

### RECORD AT SCHOOL

18-8 (2 years)

### CAREER RECORD

18-8 (2 years)

### OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Brent Pease

### DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

D.J. Durkin

### LOCATION

Gainesville, FL

### STADIUM

Ben Hill Griffin Stadium (88,548)

## KEY GATORS

**Loucheiz Purifoy, CB** He's a returning starter at cornerback, where his nose for the ball prompted Florida coaches to test him at receiver during the spring.

**Jeff Driskel, QB** The junior became the first quarterback in FBS history to throw four TD passes while passing for fewer than 100 yards when he did so against South Carolina last season.

**Dominique Easley, DL** His ability to play end or tackle will be an asset for Gators' line. He led the team with four sacks in 2012.

**Antonio Morrison, LB** Big hitter came off the bench to help seal a Florida win over Florida State in Tallahassee last year.

**Jaylen Watkins, S** Senior who started 19 games the last two seasons can play corner, safety and nickel.

## KEY LOSSES

**Jon Bostic, LB** Bostic was the Gators' top tackler among linebackers last season with 68 stops. He also had five interceptions in his career.

**Matt Elam, S** He anchored the Florida secondary for two seasons, recording six interceptions along the way.

**Sharif Floyd, DT** One of the top players taken in the NFL Draft, Floyd had 13 tackles for a loss last season.

**Mike Gillistee, RB** With 1,152 yards, Gillistee was Florida's first 1,000-yard rusher since Ciatrick Fason in 2004.

**Jordan Reed, TE** The Gators lost their most reliable target in the passing game. The tight end had 73 catches in two seasons.

## RISEING STAR

When **Brian Poole** sees the field, rest assured he deserves it. Poole was a top-100 recruit out of Bradenton (Fla.) Southeast in the 2012 class, but he plays at the crowded cornerback position. With Loucheiz Purifoy playing offense for part of the spring, Poole took advantage by showcasing his ability. He'll be tough to keep off the field, so he'll be featured in nickel packages.





## 2013 FLORIDA ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
6 Driskel, Jeff	6-4/236	Jr.	Oviedo, FL
9 Guy, Jacob	6-5/210	Fr.	Dade City, FL
19 McGriff, Ryan	6-0/200	So.	Gainesville, FL
17 Mornhinweg, Skyler	6-2/208	Fr.	Philadelphia, PA
10 Murphy, Tyler	6-2/206	Fr.	Wethersfield, CT

RUNNING BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
25 Ajagbe, Gideon	6-3/243	Jr.	Coconut Grove, FL
33 Brown, Mack	5-11/213	Jr.	Lithonia, GA
37 Herndon, Mark	5-9/193	So.	Ocala, FL
24 Jones, Matt	6-2/226	So.	Seffner, FL
41 Joyer, Hunter	5-10/235	Jr.	Wesley Chapel, FL
29 Ledbetter, Rhaheim	5-9/207	Fr.	Shelby, NC
21 Taylor, Kelvin	5-11/215	Fr.	Belle Glade, FL

RECEIVERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
86 Andrades, Raphael	6-0/190	So.	Tallahassee, FL
31 Brandenburg, Jacob	6-2/191	Fr.	Gulfport, FL
8 Burton, Trey	6-0/225	Sr.	Venice, FL
4 Debose, Andre	5-11/189	Sr.	Sanford, FL
1 Dunbar, Quinton	6-1/195	Jr.	Miami, FL
33 Maignan, Chris	6-0/184	Sr.	Miami, FL
81 Masline, Darius	5-8/175	Fr.	Jacksonville, FL
30 McNeely, Michael	5-8/177	Jr.	Clearwater, FL
87 Mobley, A.J.	5-11/222	Jr.	Fayetteville, GA
15 Parrish, Ryan	6-2/208	Jr.	Lakeland, FL
83 Patton, Solomon	5-9/171	Sr.	Mobile, AL
13 Pittman, Latroy	6-0/208	So.	Citra, FL
13 Provancha, Christian	6-6/220	Jr.	Cocoa, FL
11 Robinson, Demarcus	6-2/201	Fr.	Fort Valley, GA
45 Skinner, Braxton	6-4/221	Sr.	Jacksonville, FL
48 Smith, Vincent	5-11/183	Fr.	Merritt Island, FL

TIGHT ENDS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
88 Burton, Clay	6-4/253	Jr.	Venice, FL
82 Diamond, Bair	6-4/224	Fr.	Fort Myers, FL
18 Taylor, Kent	6-5/224	So.	Land O' Lakes, FL
84 Thompson, Colin	6-3/252	Fr.	Warminster, PA
87 Westbrook, Tevin	6-5/262	Jr.	Coconut Creek, FL

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
79 Fuchs, Matthew	6-2/238	Fr.	Gainesville, FL
76 Garcia, Max	6-4/307	Jr.	Norcross, GA
75 Green, Chaz	6-5/304	Jr.	Tampa, FL
67 Halapio, Jon	6-3/315	Sr.	St. Petersburg, FL
72 Harrison, Jonotthan	6-3/302	Sr.	Groveland, FL
70 Humphries, D.J.	6-5/280	So.	Union, NC
64 Koehne, Kyle	6-5/315	Sr.	Indianapolis, IN
73 Moore, Tyler	6-6/312	Fr.	Clearwater, FL
77 Silberman, Ian	6-5/291	Jr.	Orange Park, FL
63 Thurman, Trip	6-5/313	So.	Dover, DE
98 Williams, Quinteze	6-4/280	Fr.	Tyrone, GA

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
90 Bullard, Jonathan	6-3/265	So.	Shelby, NC
94 Cox Jr., Bryan	6-3/260	Fr.	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
55 Cummings, Darius	6-1/309	Jr.	Titusville, FL
2 Easley, Dominique	6-2/283	Sr.	Staten Island, NY
91 Ivie, Joey	6-4/269	Fr.	Dade City, FL

LINEBACKERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
4 Jacobs, Damien	6-3/286	Sr.	Gibson, LA
95 McCalister, Alex	6-5/238	Fr.	Clemmons, NC
44 Orr, Leon	6-5/310	Jr.	New Port Richey, FL
57 Wilson, Dakota	5-11/245	So.	Bradenton, FL

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
53 Adams, Cody	5-11/231	So.	Ocala, FL
34 Anzalone, Alex	6-3/230	Fr.	Wyomissing, PA
11 Ball, Neiron	6-3/235	Jr.	Jackson, GA
36 Campbell, David	5-11/219	Sr.	Live Oak, FL

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
6 Fowler Jr., Dante	6-3/263	So.	St. Petersburg, FL
49 Kitchens, Darrin	6-2/230	Sr.	Homestead, FL
13 McMillian, Daniel	6-1/227	Fr.	Jacksonville, FL
12 Morrison, Antonio	6-1/229	So.	Bolingbrook, IL
38 Nowakowski, Samuel	5-9/195	Fr.	Valrico, FL
28 Powell, Jeremi	6-1/205	Fr.	Largo, FL
7 Powell, Ronald	6-4/234	Jr.	Moreno Valley, CA
9 Rolin, Matt	6-4/208	Fr.	Ashburn, VA
51 Taylor, Michael	6-0/231	Jr.	Atlanta, GA

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
8 Brown, Jeremy	5-10/185	Sr.	Orlando, FL
30 Clark, Tim	5-10/194	Sr.	Wellborn, FL
21 Gorman, Jabari	5-10/186	Jr.	Miami, FL
47 Kline, Tim	6-0/197	Fr.	Neptune Beach, FL
20 Maye, Marcus	6-0/200	Fr.	Melbourne, FL
22 Miles, Hugh	5-8/195	So.	Miami, FL
27 Peacock, Ben	5-8/169	So.	Bradenton, FL
24 Poole, Brian	5-10/203	So.	Bradenton, FL
15 Purifoy, Loucheiz	6-1/185	Jr.	Pensacola, FL
31 Riggs, Cody	5-9/184	Jr.	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
5 Roberson, Marcus	6-0/195	Jr.	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
21 Schroeder, Evan	6-0/185	So.	New Smyrna Beach, FL
10 Showers, Valdez	5-11/190	So.	Madison Heights, MI
14 Watkins, Jaylen	6-0/181	Sr.	Cape Coral, FL

SPECIALISTS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
4 Christy, Kyle (P)	6-3/193	Jr.	Brownsburg, IN
43 Crofoot, Kyle (LS)	6-3/206	So.	Windemere, FL
39 Fennell, Todd (P)	6-1/179	So.	Vero Beach, FL
46 Ferris, Drew (LS)	6-1/212	Jr.	Carlsbad, CA
16 Hardin, Austin (K)	5-10/205	Fr.	Atlanta, GA
97 Phillips, Brad (K)	5-10/191	Sr.	Gainesville, FL
42 Van Aman, Grant (P)	6-2/188	Fr.	Tampa, FL
95 Velez, Francisco (K)	5-9/180	Jr.	Ocala, FL
40 Vogel, Justin (P)	6-4/211	Fr.	Tampa, FL

## 2012 RESULTS

RECORD: 11-2, 7-1 (SEC)

Sept. 1	Bowling Green	W	27-14
Sept. 8	at Texas A&M	W	20-17
Sept. 15	at Tennessee	W	37-20
Sept. 22	Kentucky	W	38-0
Oct. 6	LSU	W	14-6
Oct. 13	at Vanderbilt	W	31-17
Oct. 20	South Carolina	W	44-11
Oct. 27	vs. Georgia %	L	9-17
Nov. 3	Missouri	W	14-7
Nov. 10	UL Lafayette	W	27-20
Nov. 17	Jacksonville State	W	23-0
Nov. 24	at Florida State	W	37-26
Jan. 2	vs. Louisville #	L	23-33

%Jacksonville #Sugar Bowl



MARIUS HINES

## 2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jeff Driskel	245	156	1,646	12	5
Jacoby Brissett	35	23	249	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Mike Gillislee	244	1,152	4.7	10
Jeff Driskel	118	408	3.5	4
Matt Jones	52	275	5.3	3
Trey Burton	29	190	6.6	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Jordan Reed	45	559	12.4	3
Quinton Dunbar	36	383	10.6	4
Omarus Hines	23	242	10.5	0
Frankie Hammond	22	295	13.4	3

KICKING: Caleb Sturgis, 24-28 FGs, 34-35 XPs, 106 points

TACKLES: Josh Evans, 83; Matt Elam, 76

SACKS: Dominique Easley, 4

INTERCEPTIONS: Matt Elam, 4

Returning Players in Bold

## SCOUTING THE GATORS

### OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP FLORIDA

"Oddly enough, and I don't think they were the best offense, but Florida was the most difficult (offensive) team to prepare for last year. They have so many different personnel groupings, and they can do so many different things, and their identity changed on a weekly basis. ... They are kind of like South Carolina — they want to win games on defense and not turn the ball over. But it did surprise me that they finished 12th in the league in total offense. They had good speed at wide receiver. They had some real unique weapons in Jordan Reed and Trey Burton, guys who could do different things. They had arguably the top back in the league in Mike Gillislee, and they had a very athletic quarterback. They are trying to find their identity. They probably thought they had their identity at one point, but then some of the bigger, stronger teams in our league kind of challenged that identity. And they had some injuries on the offensive line. ... I like Will Muschamp. I respect him a lot. The apple doesn't fall from the tree. His mentor is Nick Saban, and he put his stamp on the team in Year 2 in regard to toughness and winning games in the kicking game and on defense. They lost their defensive coordinator to the NFL, but D.J. Durkin is one of the bright young coaches in the country, and their special teams have been outstanding the past two years. I respect them a lot."

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	26.5 ppg	10	76
Rushing	188.1 ypg	3	39
Passing	146.3 ypg	14	114
Total	334.4 ypg	12	103

Defense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	14.5 ppg	2	5
Rushing	94.9 ypg	2	4
Passing	192.5 ypg	4	17
Total	287.5 ypg	2	5

TD Margin	Per Game	SEC	National
+15	1.15	3	7



rin Kitchens, Michael Taylor and Neiron Ball are returning veterans who could open the season as starters.

**SECONDARY** Matt Elam and Josh Evans led the strongest unit of the Gators' defense last season, but the secondary shouldn't see too much of a drop-off despite those departures. Depth is strong at cornerback, enabling Jaylen Watkins and Cody Riggs to play safety. They have a combined 33 career starts, mainly at cornerback. Marcus Roberson is a solid cover corner while Purifoy, who had three forced fumbles and two blocked kicks last season, is the top playmaker. Brian Poole, a special teams contributor as a true freshman, and incoming freshman Vernon Hargreaves III will be tough to ignore, even in a crowded backfield. Florida led the SEC in interceptions last season with 20, though no one player had more than Elam's four.

**SPECIALISTS** A ball control offense needs a good punter, and the Gators have that in Kyle Christy. The junior averaged 45.8 yards per kick for a team that finished ninth nationally in net punting. The major question will be at kicker where the Gators need to find a replacement for Caleb Sturgis, who made 24-of-28 field goals last season. Brad Phillips and Austin Hardin were inconsistent during the spring, especially from long range. Debose will again be a focus of Florida return units after averaging 28.3 yards on kick returns and 9.3 yards on punts. Purifoy and Roberson are also expected to contribute in the return game.

## OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

**OUT OF WIDEOUTS** Florida's wide receiver coach position has been a revolving door in recent years. Newcomer Joker Phillips becomes the third coach in three seasons to occupy the position under Will Muschamp, but he is also the most experienced. Phillips spent three seasons as Kentucky's head coach before he was fired in November. Phillips will be in charge of reviving a position that has struggled in recent years. The Gators haven't produced a first-team All-SEC receiver in four consecutive seasons, the longest stretch for Florida since 1987-91. During the Steve Spurrier heyday, Florida had a first-team all-conference receiver every season from 1994-2002.

**NOT SO SERIOUS** Speaking of Joker, Phillips took to Instagram in his role as recruiting coordinator, posting photographs of actors Heath Ledger and Jack Nicholson in their roles as the Batman archvillain as a recruiting tool. The two Jokers were altered to wear orange and blue rather than the standard purple and green. Meanwhile, the Instagram pictures feature the hashtag #ComePlayWRForTheJoker. There has been no such treatment for Cesar Romero, who played the Joker in the campy 1960s TV version of Batman. Yet.

**TURNOVER TURNAROUND** Florida's greatest area of improvement from Muschamp's first season to his second was in the all-important category of turnover margin — from minus-12 in 2011 to plus-15 in 2012. The biggest change was in interceptions. The Gators' "interception margin" improved from minus-5 (13 interceptions thrown, eight interceptions on defense) to plus-15 (five interceptions thrown, 20 picks on defense).

**PENALTY PRESSURE** Far too many times last season, Florida put itself into bad situations because of penalties. The Gators drew the most flags of any team in the SEC, finishing with 8.1 penalties per game for an average of 68.8 yards. In comparison, national champion Alabama had 3.9 penalties per game for 33.4 yards. Muschamp estimated that 44 of the 105 penalties were discipline issues, such as offsides, illegal procedures and unsportsmanlike conduct calls.

**D.J. THE D.C.** Muschamp had to make a change at coordinator for the second time in two seasons. Where the Gators looked outside the program to replace Charlie Weis with Brent Pease, Florida promoted linebacker coach D.J. Durkin to replace defensive coordinator Dan Quinn, who took the same position with the Seattle Seahawks. Durkin was a holdover from Urban Meyer's final staff in 2010 and worked for Jim Harbaugh at Stanford. The vacant spot on the defensive staff was filled with Brad Lawing, a veteran defensive line coach at South Carolina, North Carolina and Michigan State. Florida made an additional change to the staff when defensive line coach Bryant Young abruptly resigned in April. Former UTEP defensive coordinator Jeff Choate will fill Young's spot as outside linebacker coach and special teams coordinator.



DE DOMINIQUE  
**EASLEY**



# 2013 SIGNEES

As Florida wrapped up another top-five recruiting class, it's worthwhile to note most of this group watched the Gators go 15-11 in a two-year span while enduring a coaching change. But as usual, the Gators remain a powerhouse in terms of recruiting. Florida signed its second consecutive top-four class, according to Athlon Sports.

The Gators signed one of the best classes of defensive backs in the country, meaning a position of strength could remain so for several years. Tampa (Fla.) Wharton's Vernon Hargreaves III was the nation's top cornerback prospect and the top recruit in the state. He'll have a chance to play immediately, even at a crowded position group. Three of the consensus top-20 safeties are also in the class.

Florida made wide receiver a priority, signing five at the position. The Gators have signed this many receivers in a class only twice since

1997. The haul also indicates a focus on bigger receivers: Four of the five incoming receivers are taller than six feet. Demarcus Robinson, a 6'2", 200-pound receiver from Fort Valley (Ga.) Peach County, may be the most likely to be play early.

Though Florida hasn't had overwhelming success with junior college or prep school prospects over the years, the Gators took that route to boost line play. Two junior college defensive tackles (Darius Cummings and Jarran Reed) and one offensive lineman (Tyler Moore, who started his career at Nebraska) signed with Florida. The Gators also added a prep school offensive lineman (Trenton Brown) in the 2013 class.

With two starting linebackers gone, Florida hoped to get a head start in replenishing that position with three backers enrolling during the spring. Daniel McMillian immediately stood out and had the look of an eventual starter for his rookie season. Alex Anzalone, a potential backup middle linebacker, ended up missing most of the spring following shoulder surgery. Linebacker Matt Rolin, another early enrollee, also missed the spring while recovering from knee surgery.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ...

CB • **VERNON HARGREAVES III** • TAMPA, FLA.

It shouldn't be a surprise that Vernon Hargreaves III arrives at Florida with the polish to play immediately on a team stocked with defensive backs. The Tampa (Fla.) Wharton cornerback is the son of Vernon Hargreaves, a longtime defensive assistant at UConn, Miami, East Carolina and USF. And his defensive coordinator at Wharton, Kiwaukee Thomas, played eight seasons in the NFL. One of those seasons was with the Miami Dolphins under then-defensive coordinator Will Muschamp.

"He's been raised in the game and understands it," Muschamp said on Signing Day. "But I see a very mature young man that's very driven in what he wants to accomplish."

Hargreaves arrives at Florida as the No. 3 player in the Athlon Consensus 100 thanks to his elite cover skills and his ability to play all over the field on both sides of the ball at the high school level. Not only is Hargreaves ahead of the competition in feel and knowledge for the game, but he's also a step ahead in the speed department.

That advantage gives Hargreaves the confidence to take chances, knowing he has the quickness to make up for guessing the wrong route or any other misstep. That is, if he ever guesses wrong.

LB **ALEX ANZALONE** 6-3, 220, WYOMISSING, PA  
Participated in Under Armour All-America Game. 247Sports All-American.

WR **ALVIN BAILEY** 6-0, 170, SEFFNER, FL  
Played in the Under Armour All-America Game. Caught 40 passes for 658 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior.

DL **JAY-NARD BOSTWICK** 6-4, 291, PORT ST. LUCIE, FL  
Two-time all area and all-state selection.

DL **CALEB BRANTLEY** 6-3, 304, CRESCENT CITY, FL  
Named the top 2013 defensive tackle at the Rivals 100 Five-Star Challenge.

OL **TRENTON BROWN** 6-8, 363, ALBANY, GA  
Spent two years at Georgia Military College. Second-team NJCAA All-American in '12.

DL **DARIOUS CUMMINGS** 6-1, 310, TITUSVILLE, FL  
Spent two seasons at Florida State before transferring to East Mississippi CC.

LB **JARRAD DAVIS** 6-2, 225, KINGSLAND, GA  
Chose Florida over Auburn, Tennessee, Ole Miss and Clemson.

OL **CAMERON DILLARD** 6-3, 285, CANTON, MI  
No. 259 prospect in the nation. AP All-State selection in Michigan.

WR **AHMAD FULWOOD** 6-4, 200, JACKSONVILLE, FL  
Participated in U.S. Army Combine and The Opening. 42 catches, 12 TDs as a senior.

DB **VERNON HARGREAVES III** 5-11, 185, TAMPA, FL  
USA Today first-team All-American. MVP of Under Armour All-America Game after five tackles and an interception.

DB **MARCELL HARRIS** 6-2, 220, ORLANDO, FL  
Selected to Under Armour All-America Game. Participated in The Opening.

WR **MARQUI HAWKINS** 6-2, 190, COLUMBUS, GA  
Picked Florida over Clemson, Tennessee, Southern Cal, North Carolina among others.

DL **JOEY IVIE** 6-4, 270, DADE CITY, FL  
Earned first-team honors from Sunshine Athletic Conference.

OL **OCTAVIUS JACKSON** 6-4, 285, MOULTRIE, GA  
Ranked as the No. 30 guard in the nation by ESPN. Has recorded 4.9 40-yard dash.

OL **RODERICK JOHNSON** 6-6, 316, DELRAY BEACH, FL  
Played in Under Armour All-America Game. Selected Florida over Florida State.

RB **ADAM LANE** 5-7, 216, WINTER HAVEN, FL  
Had 1,624 yards, 12 TDs as a senior. Chose Florida over Alabama, FSU among others.

LB **DANIEL MCMILLIAN** 6-3, 220, JACKSONVILLE, FL  
Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

OL **TYLER MOORE** 6-5, 312, CLEARWATER, FL  
Spent year at Nebraska, starting four games, before transferring to St. Petersburg CC.

DB **KEANU NEAL** 6-1, 203, BUSHNELL, FL  
All-state selection as a junior. Invited to The Opening all-star summer camp.

DL **JARRAN REED** 6-4, 305, GOLDSBORO, NC  
Played for East Mississippi CC defense that allowed 74.2 rushing ypg in 2012.

DL **ANTONIO RILES** 6-4, 262, LAWRENCEVILLE, GA  
Chose Florida over Alabama, Georgia, Clemson, among others.

WR **DEMARCUS ROBINSON** 6-2, 200, FORT VALLEY, GA  
Played in U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Scored 15 TDs as a high school senior.

LB **MATT ROLIN** 6-4, 205, ASHBURN, VA  
Selected to 2013 Under Armour All-America Game. First-team AP All-State as a junior in 2011.

DL **JORDAN SHERIT** 6-5, 234, TAMPA, FL  
Had 6.5 sacks in the first five games of his senior year before tearing his ACL.

QB **MAX STAVER** 6-5, 235, BRENTWOOD, TN  
Passed for 3,587 yards, 23 touchdowns as a junior and senior.

RB **KELVIN TAYLOR** 5-11, 216, BELLE GLADE, FL  
Fred's son shattered state records with career 12,121 rushing yards, 191 TDs. 247Sports All-American. Named 2012 Lou Groza High School Player of the Year.

WR **CHRIS THOMPSON** 6-0, 170, GAINESVILLE, FL  
First-team All-Area. Has recorded a 4.37 40-yard dash.

P **JOHNNY TOWNSEND** 6-2, 200, ORLANDO, FL  
Named U.S. Army All-American. Averaged 44.6 yards per punt as a senior.

DB **NICK WASHINGTON** 6-0, 183, JACKSONVILLE, FL  
Has recorded a 4.48 40-yard dash. Had 11 touchdowns as a senior.

ATH **TREVON YOUNG** 6-6, 270, BRADENTON, FL  
Played basketball in high school and was his school's first 1,000-point scorer. Also totaled more than 1,000 rebounds.



# GEORGIA BULLDOGS

NATIONAL FORECAST: 4 // SEC EAST PREDICTION: 1

**T**here may not be a more stable football program in the SEC these days than Georgia. The head coach is entering his 13th season. The quarterback is entering his fourth year as a starter. Both coordinators have been in place for at least four seasons. And only one assistant coach over the past two years has left.

The program is enjoying success on the field: The Bulldogs have earned two straight SEC East division titles and have won 22 games over the past two seasons. Last year, they were five yards away from playing in the BCS National Championship Game.

But Georgia is also one of the few top-level SEC programs not to win a national title — or even play for one — over the past 15 years. The Bulldogs almost broke through last year, but didn't even end up in a BCS bowl.

It may be that “very good but not great” is faint praise in the SEC. But coach Mark Richt and his team will point out that it means Georgia has been, and will continue to be, in position to win it all. And there's no reason to believe the Bulldogs won't be right back in the same position in 2013.

**QUARTERBACKS** This is Aaron Murray's legacy year. The senior has set enough records to go down statistically as one of the best ever at Georgia. But he still lacks an SEC title. That's obviously not all his fault. He has struggled in some big moments, but he had a good performance in last year's SEC Championship Game, and Georgia coaches have always scoffed at the “Murray can't win the big one” notion. This year Murray is hoping to expand his game by running a bit more, which he did as a freshman. “I need to move more,” Murray said in the spring. He also spent his spring break working with noted quarterback guru George Whitfield. Meanwhile, Georgia also feels very confident in the main backup quarterback, junior Hutson Mason, who redshirted last year. The issue is after Murray and Mason: Christian LeMay struggled to develop after being a 4-star recruit. And recent recruits Faton Bauta and Brice Ramsey aren't ready yet.

**RUNNING BACKS** Gone is the chaos that permeated this position at Georgia the past several years. Todd Gurley and Keith Marshall — or “Gurshall,” as a teammate nicknamed them — could not have been better as freshmen, amassing a combined 2,144 rushing yards and 27 total touchdowns. Gurley was spectacular, finishing with more rushing yards (1,385) than any SEC tailback. Marshall averaged 6.5 yards per carry (best among SEC running backs) and scored eight touchdowns on only 117 attempts. So what for an encore? The Bulldogs will take a repeat this year, although it does appear Marshall's workload could increase, and there will be efforts to get them more involved in the passing game. The issue for Georgia is depth, as they have only five scholarship tailbacks, and Brandon Harton, a former walk-on, is the only non-Gurshall back with experience. Still, if Gurley and Marshall can stay healthy, there's no reason to expect a sophomore slump.

**RECEIVERS** Here's another reason for fans to be optimistic about the Georgia passing game this season: A full year of Malcolm Mitchell. Last year's ill-advised experiment with Mitchell at cornerback was abandoned after four games, but it still kept Mitchell from spending the spring and preseason with the offense. This year, Georgia's top receiver is all-offense. “So this is a chance for me to make a big jump,” Mitchell says. In Mitchell's absence, Michael Bennett emerged as a very good threat (with at least five catches in three of the first five games) only to tear his ACL in practice prior to the sixth game. Bennett, a fourth-year junior, is healthy now and will team with Mitchell and Chris Conley to form arguably the SEC's best receiving trio. Sophomore Justin Scott-Wesley, who averaged 22.5 yards on his six receptions last season, and senior Rantavious Wooten have deep-threat ability. Both tight ends are also back: Arthur Lynch improved as a pass-catcher as the season went on, and Jay Rome improved as a blocker. Given all this, Murray will have a deep arsenal at his disposal.

## 2013 SCHEDULE

### AUGUST

31 at Clemson

### SEPTEMBER

7 South Carolina

21 North Texas

28 LSU

### OCTOBER

5 at Tennessee

12 Missouri

19 at Vanderbilt

### NOVEMBER

2 vs. Florida #

9 Appalachian State

16 at Auburn

23 Kentucky

30 at Georgia Tech

#Jacksonville, FL



DAMIAN SWANN

## THE VERDICT

### 2013 PROJECTION: 10-3, 7-1 SEC

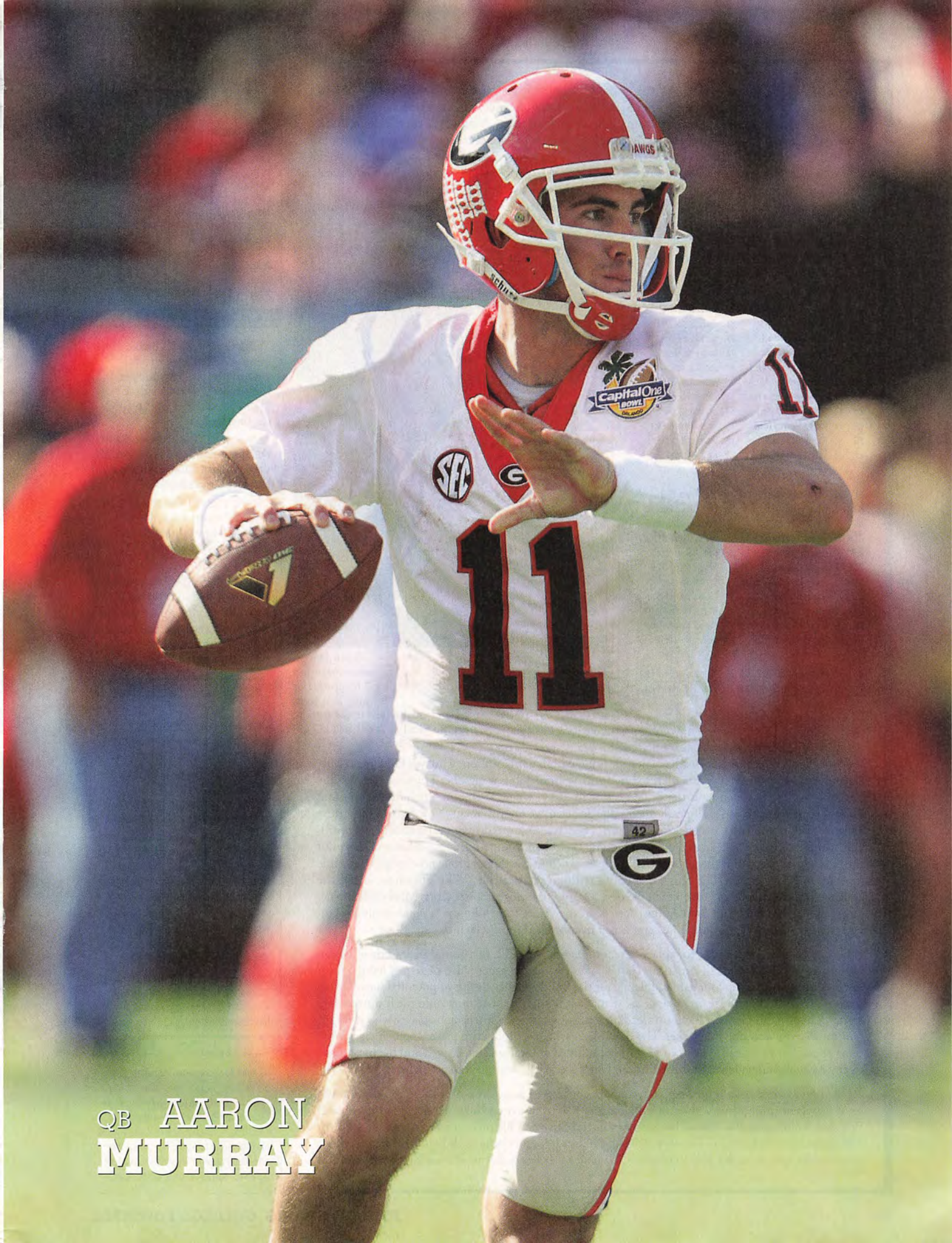
The Bulldogs are the favorites to win the SEC East, but this is not a team without issues. The defense, which underachieved at times last season, lost significant playmakers at every level. The secondary is a primary concern. The offense, as usual, should be potent. Aaron Murray is one of the SEC's top quarterbacks, and the Bulldogs are stocked with talent at running back, receiver and on the offensive line. The schedule is more challenging this season, with LSU replacing Ole Miss in the league slate and a trip to Clemson added as well. The Week 2 date with South Carolina in Athens is huge. **Postseason:** Sugar Bowl vs. Louisville

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Murray: Tom D'Paer; Swann: Bruce Schwartzman





QB AARON  
MURRAY



**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** The past two seasons, Georgia's front five has had a bad start, thanks to inexperience, then gradually gotten better as the season went on. Every offensive lineman is back. So does that mean the unit will finally be a strength? That's hard to say, because the overall talent is still a question. It's a unit capable of getting the job done, but there have also been moments it has been exposed — the South Carolina game last year being the prime example. (And Jadeveon Clowney looms in Georgia's second game.) Kenarious Gates has yet to prove he can be a lock-down left tackle and could play on the right side. John Theus was inconsistent as a freshman, but is a strong possibility to start at left tackle, as he may be the line's best player. Center David Andrews and guard Chris Burnette are solid returning starters.

## DEPTH CHART

### OFFENSE (8)

WR 26	Malcolm Mitchell (Jr.)	17	Rantavious Wooten (Sr.)
WR 82	Michael Bennett (Jr.)	31	Chris Conley (Jr.)
LT 71	John Theus (So.)	79	Mark Beard (Jr.)
LG 64	Dallas Lee (Sr.)	73	Greg Pyke (Fr.)
C 61	David Andrews (Jr.)	60	Josh Cardiello (Fr.)
RG 68	Chris Burnette (Sr.)	74	Austin Long (Sr.)
RT 72	Kenarious Gates (Sr.)	63	Xavier Ward (So.)
TE 88	Arthur Lynch (Sr.)	87	Jay Rome (So.)
QB 11	Aaron Murray (Sr.)	14	Hutson Mason (Jr.)
FB 43	Merritt Hall (So.)	48	Quayvon Hicks (So.)
RB 3	Todd Gurley (So.)	4	Keith Marshall (So.)

### DEFENSE (3)

DE 56	Garrison Smith (Sr.)	94	John Taylor (Fr.)
NT 96	Mike Thornton (Jr.)	93	Chris Mayes (So.)
DE 58	Sterling Bailey (So.)	47	Ray Drew (Jr.)
OLB 59	Jordan Jenkins (So.)	89	James DeLoach (So.)
ILB 52	Amarlo Herrera (Jr.)	38	Ryne Rankin (Fr.)
ILB 51	Ramik Wilson (Jr.)	45	Reggie Carter (Fr.)
STAR 25	Josh Harvey-Clemons (So.)	11	Connor Norman (Jr.)
CB 5	Damian Swann (Jr.)	37	Devin Bowman (So.)
CB 2	Sheldon Dawson (So.)	9	Reggie Wilkerson (Fr.)
SS 39	Corey Moore (Jr.)	11	Connor Norman (Jr.)
FS 28	Tray Matthews (Fr.)	20	Quincy Mauger (Fr.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K 13	Marshall Morgan (So.)	KR 26	Malcolm Mitchell (Jr.)
P 32	Collin Barber (So.)	PR 27	Rhett McGowan (Sr.)

**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** This unit got a makeover. Georgia is debuting a number of new defensive players this year, especially on the line. It's also the one area that has a new position coach: Chris Wilson, who was hired from Mississippi State after Rodney Garner left for Auburn. Wilson's job is a big one: The nose tackle is the linchpin to the 3-4 defense, as the Bulldogs saw in 2011, when 350-pounders John Jenkins and Kwame Geathers emerged and spearheaded a drastic defensive improvement. Now both of those guys are gone, along with end Cornelius Washington. There is a senior returning starter (Garrison Smith), and two third-year players (Ray Drew and Sterling Bailey) are competing at the other end spot. But the nose tackle position is the key, and Wilson has vowed to use three or four nose tackles per game in order to help stamina. The only experienced returning nose tackle, Mike Thornton, is also the smallest, but the team likes his ability in the trenches. Junior college transfer Chris Mayes will also get snaps, along with freshman John Atkins. Also keep an eye on Toby Johnson, a standout junior college transfer who will get a shot if he can recover from an ACL injury he incurred last year.

**LINEBACKERS** Not much to replace here, other than two NFL first-round picks, one of whom was a two-time first-team All-American (Jarvis Jones), while the other (Alec Ogletree) led the team in tackles despite missing four games. Luckily for the Bulldogs, they have two potential stars. Jordan Jenkins was second on the team in sacks last year as a freshman and will move into the featured edge-rusher role. Amarlo Herrera, the team's leading returning tackler, is a tenacious player who will captain the defense at inside linebacker. The question is whether productive players will emerge at the other spots. Junior Ramik Wilson and a host of freshmen are at inside linebacker, and the most likely to emerge at outside linebacker is sophomore James DeLoach, who played sparingly last year.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** The Georgia secondary could see a huge drop-off this year — or it could see a new generation of very good defensive backs. Gone are cornerbacks Sanders Commings and Branden Smith as well as safeties Bacarri Rambo and Shawn Williams, a quartet that combined for 125 career starts at Georgia. The only returning starter is junior cornerback Damian Swann, who is considered ready to be the No. 1 cornerback. The team believes that in safeties Tray Matthews and



Georgia's offense averaged 7.09 yards per play last year, which was the best in the nation, barely ahead of Texas A&M (7.08) and Oklahoma State (7.01).

## TEAM INFORMATION

### HEAD COACH

Mark Richt

### RECORD AT SCHOOL

118-40 (12 years)

### CAREER RECORD

118-40 (12 years)

### OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Mike Bobo

### DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Todd Grantham

### LOCATION

Athens, GA

### STADIUM

Sanford Stadium (92,746)

## KEY BULLDOGS

**Todd Gurley, RB** Broke Herschel Walker's record for rushing touchdowns by a freshman (17) and ran for 1,385 yards, first in the SEC among tailbacks.

**Aaron Murray, QB** A fourth-year starter, Murray's set school records and some SEC marks, so now it's all about winning a title, and perhaps a Heisman.

**Keith Marshall, RB** The other half of the "Gurshall" tandem was pretty good in his own right and averaged slightly more yards per carry (6.5 to Gurley's 6.2).

**Malcolm Mitchell, WR** Once he moved back to receiver, Mitchell re-emerged as one of the team's top receiving threats.

**Jordan Jenkins, OLB** Played significant snaps as a true freshman, finishing second on the team with five sacks, and looking like a future star.

## KEY LOSSES

**Jarvis Jones, OLB** A two-time first-team All-American who finished 10th in the Heisman voting, Jones broke the school record for sacks in a season, with 14.5.

**Alec Ogletree, ILB** Last year, the junior led the team in tackles (111) despite missing the first four games of the season. He leaves a big void on the defense.

**John Jenkins, NT** Jenkins and Kwame Geathers were a massive nose tackle duo the past two years and combined for 90 tackles last year; Jenkins had 50 of them, and 14 quarterback hurries.

**Shawn Williams, S** The hard-hitting Williams was an emotional leader, and his vocal presence, not to mention steady play at strong safety, will be missed.

**Tavarres King, WR** The team's leading receiver each of the past two seasons, King had 950 receiving yards and nine touchdowns last season.

## RISING STAR

As soon as spring practice began, Georgia veterans began raving about safety **Tray Matthews**, an early enrollee. Wide receiver Chris Conley called Matthews "fearless," and coach Mark Richt praised his open-field tackling. Matthews, who attended the same high school as Alec Ogletree, seems destined for stardom.



# 2013 GEORGIA ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
10 Bauta, Faton	6-3/220	Fr.	West Palm Beach, FL
7 Bingham, Greg	6-4/209	Jr.	Columbus, GA
16 LeMay, Christian	6-2/201	So.	Matthews, NC
14 Mason, Hutson	6-3/206	Jr.	Marietta, GA
11 Murray, Aaron	6-1/210	Fr.	Tampa, FL
12 Ramsey, Brice	6-3/205	So.	Kingsland, GA
2 Welch, Parker	6-3/199	Jr.	Jesup, GA

RUNNING BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
39 Bryan, Dominic	6-0/235	Fr.	Germantown, MD
28 Campbell, Corey	5-10/215	Jr.	Hephzibah, GA
3 Gurley, Todd	6-1/218	So.	Tarboro, NC
43 Hall, Merritt	5-11/238	So.	Alpharetta, GA
20 Harton, Brandon	5-6/175	Sr.	Reidsville, GA
48 Hicks, Quayvon	6-2/262	So.	Blackshear, GA
33 Karempelis, Kyle	5-9/183	Jr.	Roswell, GA
4 Marshall, Keith	5-11/216	So.	Raleigh, NC
47 Maxey, Taylor	5-10/223	So.	Statham, GA
23 Parsons, Alex	5-10/191	Sr.	Fayetteville, GA
1 Terry, Tramel	6-0/190	Fr.	Goose Creek, SC
35 Young, Chris	6-1/224	Sr.	Hinesville, GA

RECEIVERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
82 Bennett, Michael	6-3/204	Jr.	Alpharetta, GA
31 Conley, Chris	6-3/205	Jr.	Dallas, GA
6 Erdman, Michael	5-10/190	Jr.	Merritt Island, FL
15 Green, J.J.	5-9/186	Fr.	Kingsland, GA
38 Johnson, Clay	6-1/170	Fr.	Calhoun, GA
27 McGowan, Rhett	6-0/190	Sr.	Calhoun, GA
26 Mitchell, Malcolm	6-1/192	Jr.	Valdosta, GA
29 Payette, Jamal	6-3/190	So.	Cleveland, GA
18 Rumph, Jonathan	6-5/215	Jr.	Cayce, SC
86 Scott-Wesley, Justin	5-11/217	So.	Camilla, GA
25 Star, Jake	6-5/220	Fr.	Lawrenceville, GA
8 Tibbs, Blake	6-2/175	Fr.	Lithonia, GA
37 Towns, Kenneth	6-3/202	Fr.	Albany, GA
17 Wooten, Rantavious	5-10/179	Sr.	Belle Glade, FL
9 Wyatt, Curtis	6-1/200	Jr.	Locust Grove, GA

TIGHT ENDS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
41 Chapple, Jared	6-4/218	Fr.	Alpharetta, GA
80 Flournoy-Smith, Ty	6-3/237	So.	Moultrie, GA
83 Loonam, Jack	6-0/216	So.	Lexington, SC
88 Lynch, Arthur	6-5/258	Sr.	Dartmouth, MA
27 Mulkey, Greg	6-3/230	So.	Fairmount, GA
85 Rapp, Geoff	6-3/230	So.	Kennesaw, GA
87 Rome, Jay	6-6/265	So.	Valdosta, GA
89 Trolinger, Cole	6-5/230	Fr.	Newnan, GA
84 Williams, Hugh	6-5/241	Jr.	Atlanta, GA
44 Wilson, Drew	6-2/205	Sr.	Tignall, GA

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
61 Andrews, David	6-2/295	Jr.	Johns Creek, GA
79 Beard, Mark	6-5/302	Jr.	Adamsville, AL
68 Burnette, Chris	6-2/322	Sr.	LaGrange, GA
70 Bynum, Aulden	6-5/260	Fr.	Valdosta, GA
60 Cardillo, Josh	6-3/280	Fr.	Buford, GA
78 Dantzer, Watts	6-7/320	Jr.	Dalton, GA
76 DeBell, Zach	6-6/293	So.	Tarpon Springs, FL
73 Drake, Caleb	6-1/275	So.	Hogansville, GA
72 Gates, Kenarious	6-5/318	Sr.	Grantville, GA
64 Lee, Dallas	6-4/300	Sr.	Buford, GA

74 Long, Austin	6-5/324	Sr.	Memphis, TN
66 Long, Hunter	6-4/310	Jr.	Memphis, TN
70 McQuillen, Eddie	6-8/300	So.	Newnan, GA
77 Mobley, Preston	6-3/300	So.	Moultrie, GA
73 Pyke, Greg	6-6/327	Fr.	Baltimore, MD
71 Theus, John	6-6/309	So.	Jacksonville, FL
63 Ward, Xzavier	6-7/293	So.	Moultrie, GA

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
97 Atkins, John	6-4/310	Fr.	Thomson, GA
58 Bailey, Sterling	6-3/295	So.	Gainesville, GA
47 Drew, Ray	6-5/284	Jr.	Thomasville, GA
53 Kirk, Clint	6-3/275	Sr.	Perry, GA
93 Mayes, Chris	6-4/315	So.	Griffin, GA
56 Smith, Garrison	6-3/297	Sr.	Atlanta, GA
94 Taylor, John	6-4/335	Fr.	Millen, GA
96 Thornton, Mike	6-1/302	Jr.	Stone Mountain, GA

LINEBACKERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
41 Burrows, Brandon	6-3/248	Jr.	Marietta, GA
45 Carter, Reggie	6-1/224	Fr.	Snellville, GA
91 Dawson, Josh	6-4/250	So.	Tucker, GA
89 DeLoach, James	6-3/270	So.	Millen, GA
52 Herrera, Amarlo	6-2/245	Jr.	College Park, GA
59 Jenkins, Jordan	6-3/257	So.	Hamilton, GA
43 Long, Tommy	6-2/220	Fr.	Marietta, GA
46 McDonald, A.J.	6-0/230	Jr.	Suwanee, GA
42 Pinkston, Dillard	6-3/220	Fr.	Dallas, TX
38 Rankin, Ryne	6-1/231	Fr.	Orlando, FL
32 Stagg, Matt	6-3/225	Fr.	Salt Lake City, UT
44 Stripling, T.J.	6-6/235	Sr.	Decatur, GA
33 Vasser, Chase	6-3/231	Sr.	Gainesville, GA
38 Vavlas, Kosta	6-0/219	Jr.	Tarpon Springs, FL
51 Wilson, Ramik	6-2/234	Jr.	Tampa, FL

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
31 Bailey, Jon	6-0/200	Jr.	Alpharetta, GA
37 Bowman, Devin	6-0/180	So.	Rossville, GA
2 Dawson, Sheldon	5-11/181	So.	Memphis, TN
23 Deas, Marc	6-1/212	Jr.	Kissimmee, FL
28 Gillespie, Devin	5-10/195	Fr.	Grayson, GA
25 Harvey-Clemons, Josh	6-5/207	So.	Valdosta, GA
12 Herod, Austin	5-10/183	Sr.	Woodstock, GA
8 Jones, Jesse	6-0/190	So.	Habersham, GA
28 Matthews, Tray	6-0/194	Fr.	Newnan, GA
20 Mauger, Quincy	6-0/197	Fr.	Marietta, GA
39 Moore, Corey	6-2/214	Jr.	Griffin, GA
11 Norman, Connor	5-10/207	Jr.	Duluth, GA
20 Redd, Lucas	6-1/209	Jr.	Jefferson, GA
7 Sailors, Blake	5-11/187	Sr.	Athens, GA
5 Swann, Damian	5-11/189	Jr.	Atlanta, GA
9 Wilkerson, Reggie	5-11/163	Fr.	Ocala, FL

SPECIALISTS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
32 Barber, Collin (P)	6-2/200	So.	Cartersville, GA
93 Beless, Patrick (K)	5-9/155	Fr.	Atlanta, GA
97 Erickson, Adam (P)	5-10/175	Jr.	Athens, GA
60 Gazaway, Wright (LS)	6-0/243	So.	Buford, GA
90 Jackson, Ethan (P)	5-11/178	So.	Sandersville, GA
13 Morgan, Marshall (K)	6-3/201	So.	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
94 Pritchard, Thomas (K)	5-10/160	Fr.	Louisville, GA
49 Theus, Nathan (LS)	6-3/249	So.	Jacksonville, FL

## 2012 RESULTS

RECORD: 12-2, 7-1 (SEC)

Sept. 1	Buffalo	W	45-23
Sept. 8	at Missouri	W	41-20
Sept. 15	Florida Atlantic	W	56-20
Sept. 22	Vanderbilt	W	48-3
Sept. 29	Tennessee	W	51-44
Oct. 6	at South Carolina	L	7-35
Oct. 20	at Kentucky	W	29-24
Oct. 27	vs. Florida %	W	17-9
Nov. 3	Ole Miss	W	37-10
Nov. 10	at Auburn	W	38-0
Nov. 17	Georgia Southern	W	45-14
Nov. 24	Georgia Tech	W	42-10
Dec. 1	vs. Alabama &	L	28-32
Jan. 1	vs. Nebraska #	W	45-31

%Jacksonville & Atlanta #Capital One Bowl



JORDAN JENKINS

## 2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Aaron Murray	386	249	3,893	36	10
Parker Welch	7	3	39	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Todd Gurley	222	1,385	6.2	17
Keith Marshall	117	759	6.5	8
Ken Malcome	57	272	4.8	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Tavarres King	42	950	22.6	9
Malcolm Mitchell	40	572	14.3	4
Marlon Brown	27	469	17.4	4
Arthur Lynch	24	431	18.0	3
Michael Bennett	24	345	14.4	4
Chris Conley	20	342	17.1	6

**KICKING:** Marshall Morgan, 8-14 FGs, 63-67 XPs, 87 points

**TACKLES:** Alec Ogletree, 111; Shawn Williams, 98

**SACKS:** Jarvis Jones, 14.5; Jordan Jenkins, 5

**INTERCEPTIONS:** Damian Swann, 4

Returning Players in Bold

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	37.8 ppg	3	19
Rushing	182.6 ypg	4	43
Passing	285.1 ypg	4	30
Total	467.6 ypg	3	22

Defense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	19.6 ppg	6	18
Rushing	182.1 ypg	12	77
Passing	175.6 ypg	2	8
Total	357.8 ypg	6	32

TO Margin	Per Game	SEC	National
+11	+0.79	5	20

## SCOUTING THE BULLDOGS

### OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP GEORGIA

"Aaron Murray is really good. I am a big fan. If you commit people to stop the run and put one-on-one on the perimeter, he has such a nice feel with his wide receivers. If you play two deep or quarters, then they kill you with the run. It's the combination of (Todd) Gurley and Murray that kills you. ... They don't wow you with X's and O's because they don't have to. They remind you of the Miami teams in the early 2000s. They lined up in pro sets and twins and you got a chuckle out of it, then 450 yards and 42 points later they got the last laugh. ... I watched the quarterbacks at the combine, and Murray doesn't need to take a back seat to any of those guys. I think he is enjoying college and feels like he has some unfinished business. I'm not so sure that if it was Georgia playing Notre Dame for the national championship and won that he would have gone on to the NFL. ... Gurley and (Keith) Marshall complement each other so well, and (the staff) is smart in that they have plays designed specifically for Gurley and touches for Marshall. Gurley runs tackle to tackle as well as anyone. He bullies you and he is a big boy, but don't underestimate how fast he is. And then Marshall runs the perimeter run plays, the outside plays very well. He does a nice job hitting the creases in the defenses. Then don't underestimate how strong he is. They are both clearly upper-level SEC backs."



Josh Harvey-Clemons it has two more high-end talents. Matthews could become the first true freshman to start a season opener since Todd Grantham became defensive coordinator in 2010. The 6'5" Harvey-Clemons, who at 207 pounds might be too light for outside linebacker, is being used in a hybrid safety/linebacker role — called Star — where he could be utilized against Clemson and other spread offenses. And sophomore Sheldon Dawson has drawn raves from his teammates and should be a solid No. 2 cornerback.

**SPECIALISTS** Erratic hardly begins to describe Marshall Morgan's first season as Georgia's placekicker. He eventually settled down, but early in the season he missed three extra points, had another blocked and had several more ding off the uprights. But he also booted two field goals from 50-plus. Morgan only ended up 3-of-8 on field goals from 40 yards and out, so the team is banking on a stronger sophomore season. Punter Collin Barber, also a freshman last year, was the direct opposite of Morgan, with hardly any shanks but also few memorable bombs, and less than a third of his punts were downed inside the 20. While the two kicking spots are set, the return roles remain in flux. Mitchell provides the most breakaway ability, but he also made some ill-advised decisions. Gurley had a 100-yard kickoff return touchdown in the opener, then hardly returned any kicks after that.

## OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

**A STAR IS BORN** Josh Harvey-Clemons is so good that Georgia is essentially creating a position for the sophomore. At 6'5" and about 207 pounds, Harvey-Clemons is tall for a safety and light for an outside linebacker. Look for the Bulldogs to solve that problem by playing him a lot at what is called the "Star" position, which is essentially a nickel cornerback — but one who can blitz and be solid in run coverage. Georgia offensive players say that in practice Harvey-Clemons, despite his weight, packs a punch when he hits. And with Georgia opening against pass-happy Clemson, playing five defensive backs makes a lot of sense.

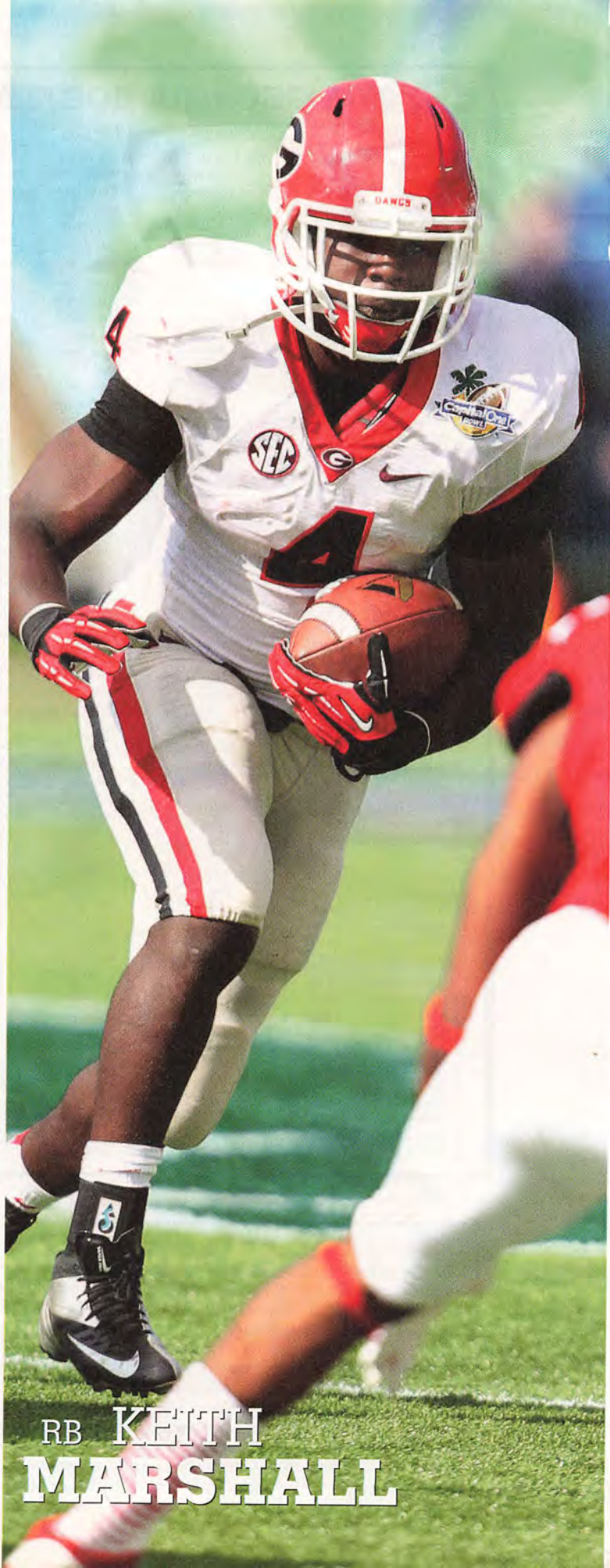
**'A CERTAIN EDGE'** There's a sense around the team that last year's defense underperformed because too many NFL-bound players became complacent. It took then-senior safety Shawn Williams ripping into his teammates to ignite things. This year's defense shouldn't have that problem, according to junior Amarlo Herrera. "A lot of people are hungrier," he says. "A lot of people have never played. They're fighting for jobs out there."

**LONG-TERM THINKING** Georgia hasn't done well with high-profile season openers lately, getting routed by Boise State two years ago and losing at Oklahoma State in 2009. This time around, look for Richt and his staff to not put as much emotional emphasis on the opener as they did on the Boise State game. It should help their case that the past two seasons showed the team could recover from losses that seemed devastating at the time (vs. Boise State, and at South Carolina last year).

**BULLISH ON MASON** How confident do Georgia offensive players feel in backup quarterback Hutson Mason, despite the fact the fourth-year junior hasn't played a meaningful down in three seasons? Junior receiver Chris Conley took to calling him "Hutson Manning" because of Mason's demeanor, both in the huddle and at the line. "He's always barking orders. He's always telling people to hurry up and get lined up. He sounds like Peyton Manning," Conley says.

**LAST ACT** Quarterback Aaron Murray may always laugh off the "can't win the big game" storyline, but it says something that he went to Oklahoma this spring to work with noted quarterback guru George Whitfield. The Georgia coaches didn't even know Murray was going until they found out in the media. It was a sign that Murray, who didn't really seriously think about turning pro, does care about his legacy at Georgia and leaving as a winner.

**SPECIAL ATTENTION** Mark Richt has long felt that his team didn't need a coach just for special teams, but this offseason he did plan to appoint one new special teams coach: himself. Richt, a quarterback in college, said he planned to "try to learn the fundamentals of kicking and punting" in order to serve as sort of a personal coach for his kickers. Since Richt isn't running the offense or defense, it seems a natural fit, but given his lack of background it's uncertain how much of an influence he'll end up having.



RB KEITH  
MARSHALL



# 2013 SIGNEES

In retrospect, Georgia's 2013 signing class was nothing to be ashamed about: The recruiting services ranked it barely in or just outside the top 10, a total of 33 players signed on, and the team's immediate needs were met. But on Signing Day it was considered a let-down, as a number of high-profile players, especially in-state prospects, spurned the Bulldogs. They also lost out on a player they hoped to stick at left tackle this season, Laremy Tunsil, who joined the parade of 5-star talent to Ole Miss.

Still, there is plenty of reason to think this class will end up being just fine. First off, Georgia brought in 13 early enrollees for spring practice, several of whom will be able to parlay that into immediate playing time. Safety Tray Matthews will play, and could start. Chris Mayes and John Atkins will help at nose tackle. Jonathon Rumph, a

6'5" receiver who bears a facial resemblance to A.J. Green, should be a tall, inviting target for Aaron Murray. Inside linebackers Reggie Carter and Ryne Rankin will help at another position sorely needing depth. The Bulldogs also reversed a recent trend by nabbing the top-rated player (by 247Sports) out of South Carolina, versatile receiver Tramel Terry.

And while Brice Ramsey is likely to redshirt, he could very well be the quarterback of the future.

Several other players set to arrive in the summer could play right away: Tailback A.J. Turman could be the first option behind "Gurshall." Cornerbacks Brendan Lang-

ley and Shaq Wiggins are highly skilled and should help at a position of need. Leonard Floyd could play at defensive end or outside linebacker. And nose tackle Toby Johnson, a junior college transfer who has to recover from ACL surgery, was a late coup for the Bulldogs.

Richt has emphasized Georgia filling its needs, and he was pleased to have so many early enrollees. "As far as I'm concerned, we got the No. 1 class in America," Richt said.

That may have been a bit of hyperbole. But the Bulldogs are hoping to turn a lot of 4- and 3-star recruits into eventual 5-star talent.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ...

### TRAMEL TERRY • WR • GOOSE CREEK, SC

After enrolling early at Georgia, Tramel Terry spent most of spring standing to the side at practice, just watching his fellow receivers. It was all he could do, having torn his ACL in a high school all-star game in December. But Terry's recovery was going well, and it seems certain he'll be able to see substantial time this season, if not in the opener against Clemson. And Terry, a native of Goose Creek, S.C., badly wants to play against Clemson and South Carolina.

Whenever Terry does play, his skills will be utilized in a way that could make him the X-factor for Georgia's offense. As a senior at Goose Creek High School, one of the nation's top-ranked teams, Terry caught 48 passes for 792 yards, and rushed for 841 yards on 113 carries. He had 19 rushing touchdowns, and five receiving.

Georgia plans to make use of those talents in a way that it has tried to recently with similar talents: Brandon Boykin and Branden Smith, two cornerbacks who just made cameos on offense.

Terry is on offense full-time. He envisions playing in the Wildcat, presumably as the QB. "They showed me a lot of the things they did with Brandon Boykin," says Terry. "They never really had an offensive player to where they could be a running back (and) could be a wide receiver. ... So I feel like I can add a whole other dimension."

## BREAKDOWN BY POSITION

Defensive Backs	9
Linebackers	6
Defensive Linemen	5
Wide Receivers	5
Offensive Linemen	4
Running Backs	2
Quarterbacks	1
Tight Ends	1

## BY STATE

Georgia	22
Florida	5
Mississippi	2
South Carolina	2
Indiana	1
North Carolina	1

DT **JOHN ATKINS** 6-4, 305, THOMSON, GA  
Fox Sports NEXT's No. 23 DT in the country. No. 23 overall prospect in Georgia.

DE **DAVID BELLAMY** 6-5, 235, CHAMBLEE, GA  
Rivals' No. 25 defensive end in the country and No. 54 overall player in Georgia.

S **PARIS BOSTICK** 6-1, 217, TAMPA, FL  
Rated by Rivals as the No. 40 safety in the country and No. 85 player in Florida.

OL **AULDEN BYNUM** 6-5, 270, VALDOSTA, GA  
Ranked No. 40 among the nation's offensive tackles by Rivals.

OL **JOSH CARDIELLO** 6-3, 283, BUFORD, GA  
Rated by Rivals as a 3-star recruit and the No. 22 center in the country.

LB **REGGIE CARTER** 6-1, 224, SNELLVILLE, GA  
Ranked No. 15 linebacker in the country and No. 22 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.

TE **JORDAN DAVIS** 6-4, 225, THOMSON, GA  
Rivals' No. 19 TE nationally and No. 33-ranked player in Georgia.

WR **REGGIE DAVIS** 6-0, 159, TALLAHASSEE, FL  
ESPN's No. 45 WR nationally and No. 52 player in Florida.

FB **BRENDAN DOUGLAS** 5-11, 202, AUGUSTA, GA  
ESPN's No. 4 FB nationally and No. 148 overall prospect in Georgia.

LB **LEONARD FLOYD** 6-4, 220, EASTMAN, GA  
A 247Sports 4-star prospect. No. 4 overall prep school prospect nationally.

DB **SHAQUILLE FLUKER** 6-1, 192, MERIDIAN, MS  
A 247Sports 4-star prospect. No. 28 juco prospect nationally. No. 2 safety nationally.

DB **J.J. GREEN** 5-8, 171, KINGSLAND, GA  
No. 50 Athlete in the country and No. 47 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.

DL **DEANDRE JOHNSON** 6-3, 311, NEWMAN, GA  
ESPN's No. 84 DT nationally. No. 41 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.

S **KENAR JOHNSON** 6-2, 185, PERKINSTON, MS  
Rivals 3-star prospect, ranked No. 94 among juco prospects nationally.

WR **RICO JOHNSON** 5-11, 172, SWAINSBORO, GA  
247Sports 4-star prospect. No. 42 WR nationally. No. 24 prospect in Georgia.

DT **TOBY JOHNSON** 6-4, 305, COLLEGE PARK, GA  
247Sports' No. 3 juco defensive tackle. No. 8 juco prospect overall.

LB **TIM KIMBROUGH** 6-0, 228, INDIANAPOLIS, IN  
PrepStar All-American, ESPN 4-star player. No. 11 ILB nationally.

OL **BRANDON KUBLANOW** 6-3, 290, MARIETTA, GA  
Rivals 4-star player. No. 2 center nationally. No. 15 overall prospect in Georgia.

CB **BRENDAN LANGLEY** 6-1, 181, MARIETTA, GA  
ESPN 4-star recruit. No. 24 CB nationally. No. 26 overall prospect in Georgia.

WR **URIAH LEMAY** 6-2, 197, MATTHEWS, NC  
ESPN 4-star recruit and No. 48 WR nationally.

DB **TRAY MATTHEWS** 6-0, 194, NEWMAN, GA  
Rivals, Scout, 247Sports and ESPN 4-star prospect.

DB **QUINCY MAUGER** 6-0, 197, MARIETTA, GA  
Rivals' No. 26 safety nationally. No. 27 player in the state of Georgia.

DT **CHRIS MAYES** 6-4, 315, GRIFFIN, GA  
247Sports 3-star player, ranked No. 111 among juco prospects nationally.

LB **SHAUN MCGEE** 6-3, 233, SNELLVILLE, GA  
Rivals' No. 26 OLB nationally. No. 25 prospect in Georgia.

LB **JOHNNY O'NEAL** 6-2, 225, DUBLIN, GA  
Rivals 4-star player, ranked No. 16 ILB in the country and No. 12 player in Georgia.

QB **BRICE RAMSEY** 6-3, 205, KINGSLAND, GA  
ESPN 4-star player, ranked No. 115 on the ESPN150 and the No. 7 QB in the country.

LB **RYNE RANKIN** 6-1, 230, ORLANDO, FL  
ESPN 4-star player. No. 296 on the ESPN300. No. 13 ILB in the country.

WR **JONATHAN RUMPH** 6-5, 215, CAYCE, SC  
ESPN No. 7 juco prospect nationally. Rivals 4-star prospect.

OT **DEVONDRE SEYMOUR** 6-5, 295, SUWANEE, GA  
ESPN 4-star prospect. No. 14 OT nationally. No. 27 prospect in Georgia.

WR **TRAMEL TERRY** 5-11, 193, GOOSE CREEK, SC  
Rivals 4-star recruit. No. 20 WR nationally. No. 3 prospect in South Carolina.

RB **A.J. TURMAN** 6-0, 198, ORLANDO, FL  
247Sports 4-star player. No. 13 RB in the country. No. 26 player in Florida.

CB **SHAQUILLE WIGGINS** 5-10, 165, TYRONE, GA  
39th-ranked prospect on ESPN 150. Played in the Under Armour All-America game.

CB **REGGIE WILKERSON** 5-11, 162, OCALA, FL  
Rivals 4-star recruit. No. 26-rated cornerback nationally.



# KENTUCKY WILDCATS

NATIONAL FORECAST: 65 // SEC EAST PREDICTION: 7

**K**entucky fans were desperate for a reason to believe again. It wasn't just that the Wildcats lost under previous coach Joker Phillips — three straight sub-.500 seasons — but how they lost. Not only did they go 2–14 in SEC games the last two years, but the defeats came by an average of 26.4 points. UK was no longer competitive. All the momentum of five straight bowl berths from 2006–10 was gone. Fans flooded athletic director Mitch Barnhart with angry emails and backed those up with a boycott. Barnhart said he knew he couldn't keep Phillips when less than 19,000 fans showed up for the final league home game against Vanderbilt.

Enter Mark Stoops. The former Florida State defensive coordinator came to town with a prominent last name and glittering résumé, saying all the right things. At his introductory press conference: "I'm highly motivated to build this program to national prominence ... to play in the SEC Championship Game — and to win it."

He hired the right people, bringing D.J. Eliot with him from FSU to run the defense and luring Texas Tech offensive coordinator Neal Brown, a Kentucky native and former Wildcat. The "Air Raid" attack, which Brown learned in Lexington under Hal Mumme in the 1990s, is coming home with him. Stoops and Co. kept the ball rolling by signing the program's highest-rated recruiting class in at least a dozen years. Suddenly, there was "new hope, new energy, a new beginning," Barnhart says.

Fans believe again. More than 50,000 showed up for the spring game. The question now: How patient will the Big Blue Nation be with Stoops?

**QUARTERBACKS** Quarterback is the key to Brown's offense, which ranked seventh or better nationally in passing yards the last two seasons at Texas Tech. Yet Brown and Stoops remained intentionally vague about the three-man battle for the job this spring. What does each do best? "Ask me in the fall," Brown said. Anyone look especially strong? "I told you I'm not going to answer that," Brown said. The competition might go two weeks into preseason camp before a starter is named. All three contenders bring something to the table. Maxwell Smith completed 68.7 percent of his passes and averaged 322 yards through three games last fall before a season-ending ankle injury. Jalen Whitlow, who started UK's final seven games, is a dangerous dual-threat and shined brightest in the Spring Game, completing 17-of-28-passes for 193 yards and two touchdowns and rushing seven times for 49 yards. Patrick Towles entered with the most recruiting hype — a top-10 QB prospect nationally, Kentucky's Mr. Football, the next Tim Couch, many believed — but he's been inconsistent thus far. Although Stoops said Whitlow clearly had the best Spring Game, and Brown praised his dramatic improvement as a passer (and said his running ability could be a tiebreaker), both coaches insist the QB race remains wide open.

**RUNNING BACKS** The Cats' quartet of veteran backs — seniors Raymond Sanders and Jonathan George and sophomores Josh Clemons and Dyshawn Mobley — have combined for 2,278 career rushing yards, 525 receiving yards and 18 touchdowns. Four-star recruit Jojo Kemp will join them in camp. There's also fullback D.J. Warren, a 242-pound bulldozer. New running backs coach Chad Scott, a former UK player who came with Brown from Texas Tech, says Sanders "fits what we do." Although he's only 5'8", 199 pounds, Sanders has good speed, elusiveness and hands. "I think he has it all," Scott says. "I think he's really the total package."

**RECEIVERS** UK lost four seniors, including standout La'Rod King, who took with them 2,684 career receiving yards and 23 touchdowns. The Cats were down to just six scholarship wideouts for spring practice. They'd like to have 10 who can legitimately play to keep guys fresh in this fast-paced, spread offense. "Obviously we're going to count on some freshmen to come in and play," says wide receivers coach Tommy Mainord, another Texas Tech transplant. UK signed four receivers in the 2013 class, most notably in-state star Ryan Timmons, who turned down Florida and Ohio State and is expected to contribute immediately. The same is true of junior college transfer Javess Blue, an im-

## 2013 SCHEDULE

### AUGUST

31 vs. Western Kentucky #

### SEPTEMBER

7 Miami (Ohio)

14 Louisville

28 Florida

### OCTOBER

5 at South Carolina

12 Alabama

24 at Mississippi State

### NOVEMBER

2 Alabama State

9 Missouri

16 at Vanderbilt

23 at Georgia

30 Tennessee

#Nashville, TN



DEMARCO ROBINSON

## THE VERDICT

### 2013 PROJECTION: 4-8, 1-7 SEC

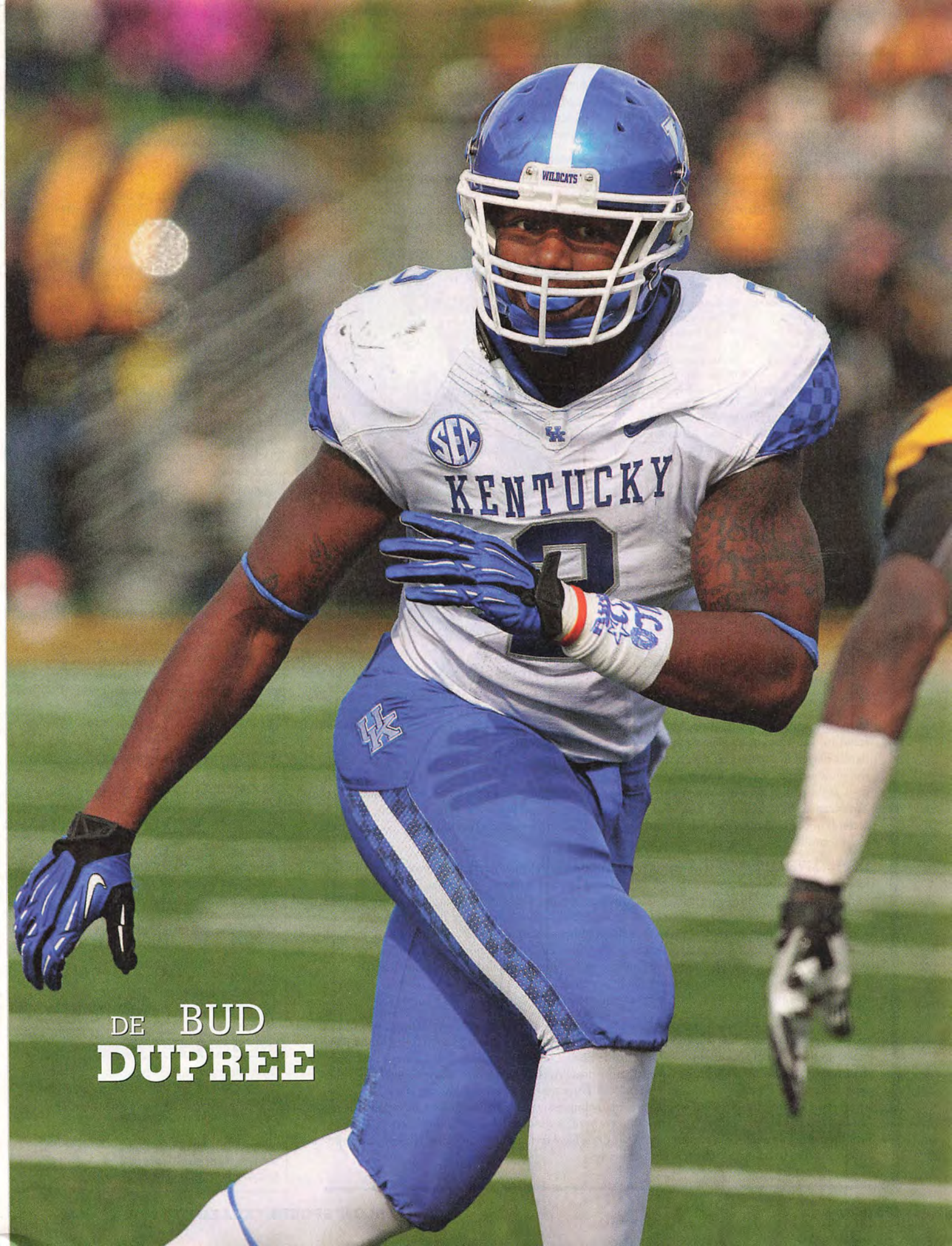
Mark Stoops seems to be the right fit at Kentucky, but don't expect a quick fix. This team lacks talent on both sides of the ball. New offensive coordinator Neal Brown needs to settle on a quarterback and develop some playmakers at wideout. The offensive line must replace two starters, including All-America guard Larry Warford. There are some nice options at running back. Stoops' impact should be felt right away on defense, which is in need of a renovation after allowing 31 points per game last year. With a challenging schedule, getting to four wins would be a good debut for Stoops.

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Tim Umphrey





DE BUD  
**DUPREE**



pressive physical specimen. But the Cats also need returning receivers Demarco Robinson, A.J. Legree, DeMarcus Sweat and Daryl Collins to shine. Legree and Sweat are both burners, Robinson a slippery slot receiver. Tight ends Tyler Robinson, Ronnie Shields and junior college transfer Steven Borden, son of former pro wrestler "Sting," will be key to the passing game as well.

**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** The losses of three-year starting center Matt Smith and All-America right guard Larry Warford are not insignificant. The optimist would point to a veteran left side where tackle Darian Miller and guard Zach West started every game last season. While Warford became UK's first drafted offensive lineman in 20 years, Miller likely will prevent another such drought between NFL picks. Senior Kevin Mitchell, who started all 12 games at right tackle, moved inside to

## DEPTH CHART

### OFFENSE (4)

WR	9	Demarco Robinson (Jr.)	83	DeMarcus Sweat (So.)
WR	6	A.J. Legree (So.)	81	Rashad Cunningham (So.)
WR	23	Daryl Collins (So.)		Ryan Timmons (Fr.)
LT	77	Darrian Miller (Jr.)	51	T.J. Jones (Fr.)
LG	75	Zach West (So.)	76	Teven Eatmon-Nared (Jr.)
C	57	Zach Myers (Fr.)	72	Jon Toth (Fr.)
RG	79	Kevin Mitchell (Sr.)	71	John Gruenschlaeger (So.)
RT	70	Jordan Swindle (So.)	58	Shaquille Love (So.)
TE	89	Tyler Robinson (Sr.)	80	Ronnie Shields (Jr.)
QB	13	Jalen Whitlow (So.)	11	Maxwell Smith (So.)
RB	4	Raymond Sanders (Sr.)	21	Josh Clemons (So.)

### DEFENSE (6)

DE	2	Bud Dupree (Jr.)		Jason Hatcher (Fr.)
DT	97	Mister Cobble (Sr.)	98	Thomas Chapman (Fr.)
DT	99	Donte Rumph (Sr.)	51	Tristian Johnson (Sr.)
DE	94	Za'Darius Smith (Jr.)	41	TraVaughn Paschal (Jr.)
OLB	22	Khalid Henderson (So.)	54	Malcolm McDuffen (Jr.)
MLB	40	Avery Williamson (Sr.)	10	Tyler Brause (Jr.)
OLB	32	Miles Simpson (Jr.)	34	Kory Brown (Jr.)
CB	16	Cody Quinn (So.)	15	J.D. Harmon (So.)
CB	3	Fred Tiller (So.)		Jaleel Hytchye (Fr.)
S	7	Daron Blaylock (So.)		Marcus McWilson (Fr.)
S	5	Ashely Lowery (Jr.)	18	Glenn Faulkner (So.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	88	Joe Mansour (Sr.)	KR	83	DeMarcus Sweat (So.)
P	9	Landon Foster (So.)	PR	9	Demarco Robinson (Jr.)



**24** Kentucky has scored more than 24 points only once in its last 20 games against teams in the six major conferences. The Cats beat Ole Miss 30-13 late in the 2011 season.

guard this spring and is Warford's likely replacement — a solid stand-in. But that means true sophomore Jordan Swindle, who hardly played in 2012, takes over at tackle. And redshirt freshman Zach Myers must replace Smith, the smartest and steadiest member of the Cats' line the last three years. On top of all that, UK's big boys are adjusting to a new offense that features much wider splits and a significantly faster pace. "You have to be able to think fast," line coach John Schlarman says. "You don't have your 15 to 20 seconds in between plays to kind of figure out: 'What just happened on that last snap?' You only have eight seconds. That's a big adjustment for guys."

**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** The Cats haven't had a defensive lineman drafted since 2010. But that looks like it'll soon change. Assuming tackle Donte Rumph returns 100 percent from the shoulder injury that sidelined him this spring, UK will have a pair of senior wrecking balls in the middle. Rumph is 6'3", 323 pounds and Mister Cobble is 6'0", 340. More important, the Cats appear to have a legitimate pass rush thanks to linebacker Bud Dupree, an athletic, 6'4", 254-pound junior with nine career sacks, moving to end and junior college star Za'Darius Smith joining him on the other side. Smith, arguably the top junior college end in the country, is an imposing specimen at 6'6", 257 pounds. Both shined this spring even though they couldn't hit the quarterbacks. "When we play in a real game," Smith says, "we feel sorry for the quarterback."

**LINEBACKERS** Two spots are solidified. Senior middle linebacker Avery Williamson was one of the nation's top tacklers last fall, and sophomore Khalid Henderson looks primed to become a playmaker in the mold of another former UK outside linebacker, All-American Danny Trevathan. Henderson wears his No. 22 and has the same signature dreadlocks. Now the Cats need to solidify the other spot, where Miles Simpson, Kory Brown and Josh Forrest are all options. Simpson started 11 games a year ago and had 70 tackles but wasn't particularly impressive. Brown and Forrest are better athletes, but unproven. One thing that should help this corps of linebackers, though, is the switch in schemes. "It's somewhat simpler," Williamson says. "We don't have to make as many calls. It's less communication that has to be made, which is kind of better."

## TEAM INFORMATION

### HEAD COACH

Mark Stoops

### RECORD AT SCHOOL

First Season

### CAREER RECORD

First Season

### OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Neal Brown

### DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

D.J. Eliot

### LOCATION

Lexington, KY

### STADIUM

Commonwealth Stadium (67,942)

## KEY WILDCATS

### Avery Williamson, LB

Started every game last season, ranked second in the SEC in tackles and has 194 stops in his career. Needs to lead the defense.

**Bud Dupree, DE** Has 112 tackles, nine sacks in two seasons and looked like a beast coming off the edge this spring.

**Raymond Sanders, RB** Elusive senior with 1,078 rushing yards, 238 receiving yards and nine TDs in his career.

**Demarco Robinson, WR** With a whopping 33 career catches, he's the most experienced receiver on the roster and could thrive in the "Air Raid" system.

**Jalen Whitlow, QB** When Texas A&M paired its version of the "Air Raid" with a dynamic runner at QB, we got Johnny Football. Whitlow's no Heisman contender but could be UK's most dangerous option.

## KEY LOSSES

**Larry Warford, G** Three-time All-SEC pick, first All-America offensive lineman for the Cats since 1989, first one taken in the NFL Draft since '93.

**Matt Smith, C** Three-year starter as the QB of the offensive line, who former UK line coach Mike Summers called one of the smartest football minds he'd coached.

**La'Rod King, WR** Caught 134 career passes for 1,706 yards and 17 TDs. Cats must replace his production and his size.

**Martavius Neloms, S** Versatile enough to play corner and safety, he recorded 193 career tackles, nine for a loss, and eight pass breakups.

**Marcus Caffey, CB** The previous staff thought Caffey had NFL potential. But he was academically ineligible in 2012, cited for marijuana in the fall, dismissed in January.

## RISEING STAR

Sophomore receiver **Rashad Cunningham** is a prototype, a chiseled 6'4", 219 pounds. He came to UK raw, running ragged routes and dropping too many passes. But he appears to be putting it together. Cunningham was praised throughout the spring and caught eight passes for 80 yards and a touchdown in the Spring Game.





# 2013 KENTUCKY ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
12 Phillips, Reese	6-2/218	Fr.	Signal Mountain, TN
11 Smith, Maxwell	6-4/232	So.	Granada Hills, CA
14 Towles, Patrick	6-5/234	So.	Ft. Thomas, KY
13 Whitlow, Jalen	6-2/208	So.	Prattville, AL
10 Witthuhn, Jeff	6-3/237	Fr.	Bowling Green, KY

RUNNING BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
21 Clemons, Josh	5-10/212	So.	Fayetteville, GA
25 George, Jonathan	5-10/221	Sr.	Lincoln, AL
31 Giddens, John	5-9/175	So.	Louisville, KY
43 Jones, Cody	5-11/216	Sr.	Williamsburg, KY
34 McCray, Jerry	6-0/197	Fr.	Detroit, MI
33 Mobley, Dyshawn	5-11/216	So.	Powell, TN
4 Sanders III, Raymond	5-8/199	Sr.	Stone Mountain, GA
30 Taylor, Justin	5-10/217	Fr.	Atlanta, GA
39 Warren, D.J.	6-0/242	Jr.	Alcoa, TN

RECEIVERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
85 Borden, Steven	6-3/241	Jr.	Waxahachie, TX
87 Cobbins, Bookie	6-0/187	So.	New Orleans, LA
23 Collins, Daryl	5-11/205	So.	Gadsden, AL
81 Cunningham, Rashad	6-4/219	So.	Mobile, AL
88 Johnson, A.J.	6-2/187	Fr.	Portland, OR
6 Legree, A.J.	6-1/188	So.	Fort White, FL
83 Quarles, Derrick	5-11/188	So.	Russellville, KY
9 Robinson, Demarco	5-10/159	Jr.	Ellenwood, GA
29 Sheehan, Austin	5-9/160	Fr.	Ft. Thomas, KY
83 Sweat, DeMarcus	6-1/196	So.	Lithonia, GA
35 Tanner, William	6-0/191	Jr.	Nashville, TN
84 Wilson, Latrell	6-0/202	Fr.	Somerset, KY

TIGHT ENDS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
86 Aumiller, Jordan	6-4/233	Sr.	Danville, KY
48 Ballis, John	6-2/216	Fr.	Houston, TX
44 Bowden, Seth	6-5/220	Fr.	Louisville, KY
82 Kendrick, Anthony	6-3/241	Sr.	Katy, TX
46 Ligon, Patrick	6-4/250	Sr.	Germantown, TN
89 Robinson, Tyler	6-3/261	Sr.	Friendsville, TN
80 Shields, Ronnie	6-5/234	Jr.	Stone Mountain, GA

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
62 Davenport, Tyler	6-5/297	Jr.	Hodgenville, KY
63 Davis, Bill	6-2/329	So.	Lexington, KY
76 Eatmon-Nared, Teven	6-7/339	Jr.	Bucyrus, OH
64 Godby, Max	6-4/291	Jr.	Louisville, KY
71 Gruenschlaeger, John	6-11/340	So.	Fort Thomas, KY
51 Jones, T.J.	6-6/320	Fr.	Myrtle Beach, SC
58 Love, Shaquille	6-4/317	So.	Harriman, TN
77 Miller, Darrian	6-5/288	Jr.	Lexington, KY
79 Mitchell, Kevin	6-6/296	Sr.	Winston, GA
57 Myers, Zach	6-3/289	Fr.	Miamisburg, OH
70 Swindle, Jordan	6-7/299	So.	St. Johns, FL
72 Toth, Jon	6-5/289	Fr.	Indianapolis, IN
55 Watson, Jordan	6-4/322	Fr.	Fayetteville, GA
75 West, Zach	6-4/312	So.	Lexington, KY

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
98 Chapman, Thomas	6-4/309	Fr.	Louisville, KY

97 Cobble, Mister	6-0/340	Sr.	Louisville, KY
92 Coleman, Christian	6-3/295	Jr.	Milan, TN
60 Davis Jr., Alvin	6-4/269	Jr.	Jesup, GA
50 Douglas, Mike	6-4/269	Jr.	Largo, FL
2 Dupree, Bud	6-4/254	Jr.	Irwinton, GA
52 Gaffree, Patrick	6-4/287	Fr.	Elizabethtown, KY
91 Huguenin, Farrington	6-4/269	So.	Columbia, SC
47 Johnson, Jabari	6-1/265	So.	Stone Mountain, GA
51 Johnson, Tristian	6-1/277	Sr.	LaGrange, GA
95 Newton, Langston	6-4/271	Fr.	Carmel, IN
41 Paschal, TraVaughn	6-4/250	Jr.	Odenton, MD
99 Rumph, Donte	6-3/323	Sr.	St. Matthews, SC
94 Smith, Za'Darius	6-6/257	Jr.	Greenville, AL
78 Williams, Zane	6-4/271	Fr.	Lexington, KY

LINEBACKERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
10 Brause, Tyler	6-4/240	Jr.	Sycamore, OH
34 Brown, Kory	6-0/205	Jr.	Moncks Corner, SC
26 Dunn, Tre'	6-2/221	Jr.	Harrodsburg, KY
8 Forrest, Josh	6-3/241	So.	Paducah, KY
22 Henderson, Khalid	6-1/224	So.	Mableton, GA
54 McDuffen, Malcolm	6-3/220	Jr.	Hopkinsville, KY
49 Rancifer, Demarius	6-2/216	So.	Pensacola, FL
32 Simpson, Miles	6-2/228	Jr.	Independence, KY
45 Thomas, Kadeem	6-0/225	So.	Tallahassee, FL
40 Williamson, Avery	6-1/241	Sr.	Milan, TN

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
7 Blaylock, Daron	6-1/213	So.	Marietta, GA
27 Blaylock, Shawn	5-10/166	Fr.	Lithonia, GA
17 Blaylock, Zack	6-0/191	So.	Marietta, GA
21 Cox, Rodney	6-0/178	So.	Louisville, KY
28 Dixon, Eric	5-11/189	Jr.	Mobile, AL
18 Faulkner, Glenn	6-2/192	So.	East St. Louis, IL
15 Harmon, J.D.	6-2/191	So.	Paducah, KY
20 Harris, Josh	6-0/194	Fr.	Maysville, KY
29 Lewis, Cody	6-0/182	Fr.	Alcoa, TN
5 Lowery, Ashely	6-1/219	Jr.	Cleveland, GA
25 McKinley, Cantrell	6-0/209	So.	Texarkana, TX
16 Quinn, Cody	5-10/177	So.	Middletown, OH
38 Simmons, Eric	6-0/203	Jr.	Atlanta, GA
42 Smith, Eric	5-11/199	So.	Fishersville, KY
3 Tiller, Fred	6-0/170	So.	Homerville, GA
37 Tyler, Dakota	5-11/207	Sr.	Indianapolis, IN
36 Williams, Jerry	6-0/168	So.	Lexington, KY
24 Williams, R.J.	6-0/193	Jr.	Albany, NY
43 Wright, Sterling	5-11/203	Fr.	Miami, FL

SPECIALISTS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
53 Adolph, Matthew (LS)	6-2/223	Jr.	Dublin, OH
90 Blain, Tanner (K)	6-2/192	Fr.	Lindenhurst, IL
81 Budde, Kyle (LS)	6-6/221	Jr.	Mason, OH
9 Foster, Landon (P)	6-1/206	So.	Franklin, TN
13 Leet, Jared (H)	6-3/188	So.	Powell, OH
88 Mansour, Joe (K/P)	6-2/188	Sr.	LaGrange, GA
59 Mason, Kelly (LS)	6-3/221	So.	Rockton, IL
44 Strong, Max (K)	5-2/177	Fr.	Louisville, KY

## 2012 RESULTS

RECORD: 2-10, 0-8 (SEC)

Sept. 2	at Louisville	L	14-32
Sept. 8	Kent State	W	47-14
Sept. 15	Western Kentucky (ot)	L	31-32
Sept. 22	at Florida	L	0-38
Sept. 29	South Carolina	L	17-38
Oct. 6	Mississippi State	L	14-27
Oct. 13	at Arkansas	L	7-49
Oct. 20	Georgia	L	24-29
Oct. 27	at Missouri	L	10-33
Nov. 3	Vanderbilt	L	0-40
Nov. 17	Samford	W	34-3
Nov. 24	at Tennessee	L	17-37



DONTE RUMPH

## 2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jalen Whitlow	161	87	801	3	2
Maxwell Smith	150	103	975	8	4
Patrick Towles	40	19	233	1	1

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Raymond Sanders	125	669	5.4	5
Jonathan George	108	504	4.7	4
Jalen Whitlow	68	206	3.0	3
Dyshawn Mobley	41	184	4.5	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
La'Rod King	48	488	10.2	4
Demarco Robinson	28	297	10.6	0
Aaron Boyd	24	233	9.7	2

**KICKING:** Craig McIntosh, 8-15 FGs, 27-27 XPs, 51 points

**TACKLES:** Avery Williamson, 135; Bud Dupree, 91

**SACKS:** Bud Dupree, 6.5

**INTERCEPTIONS:** J.D. Harmon, 2

Returning Players in Bold

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	17.9 ppg	14	116
Rushing	138.8 ypg	11	87
Passing	176.3 ypg	12	102
Total	315.0 ypg	13	113

Defense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	31.0 ppg	13	85
Rushing	161.3 ypg	10	62
Passing	229.8 ypg	9	57
Total	391.0 ypg	11	59

TO Margin	Per Game	SEC	National
-4	-0.33	10	82

## SCOUTING THE WILDCATS

### OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP KENTUCKY

"Kentucky, for the past few years, hasn't had anybody that's scared you on offense, on the perimeter or at running back. When your best player is your right guard (Larry Warford), that's probably a little bit of a problem. ... They have some good young running backs, and obviously Patrick Towles and Jalen Whitlow, the two (sophomore) quarterbacks, are pretty talented. I'm sure those guys will improve. ... Towles is a talented kid. He was pretty highly recruited. He did a great job in his first game against Mississippi State, driving them down the field, but then got hurt. He's a hometown kid and a fan favorite. I think he can be a pretty good player. My gut is that he is the guy who gets the job, but don't forget about Max Smith. He was playing well before getting hurt last year. ... I'm sure (Mark) Stoops will come in and attract some talent. The fact of where Lexington is and his ties to Ohio, you will see an outside-the-box thinking as far as recruiting. They will get some players from Ohio. He already has done a good job in that state. ... Stoops is well regarded as a defensive coordinator. He did a great job at Florida State. People forget, that defense had been struggling before he got there. ... (Offensive coordinator) Neal Brown is very confident. He has a little bit of a swagger to him. He did a good job at Troy and Texas Tech."



**DEFENSIVE BACKS** Stoops has mentored several star defensive backs who went on to enjoy NFL careers, including Phillip Buchanon, Brandon Meriweather, Ed Reed, Antrel Rolle and Sean Taylor at Miami. He knows what a good secondary player looks like, and he didn't seem to be impressed with the Cats' collection of defensive backs after a month of spring ball, remarking that UK needed secondary help in a hurry. Five true freshmen — corners Cody Quinn, Fred Tiller and J.D. Harmon and safeties Daron and Zack Blaylock — played significantly last fall, but none especially well. Quinn, Tiller and Daron Blaylock are solid starting options, and junior safety Ashely Lowery has emerged as a real playmaker and leader, but depth is an issue. Incoming safety Marcus McWilson and corner Jaleel Hytchye, both of whom had their pick of several major programs, could find their way into the two-deep quickly.

**SPECIALISTS** Landon Foster ranked fifth nationally among freshmen last season with a 42.9-yard punting average and had 22 kicks of 50-plus yards. The Cats are looking for a field goal kicker, though, and they could turn to incoming freshman Austin MacGinnis, rated No. 3 in the country by Rivals. Senior kickoff specialist Joe Mansour has a big leg but erratic accuracy. Robinson (punts) and Sweat (kickoffs) are UK's most dangerous return guys.

## OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

**FORMER CAT IMPRESSED WITH STOOPS** Kentucky fans quit on last year's team. Season-ticket sales dipped to their lowest level in more than a decade. Actual attendance at the final two home games was less than 39,000 combined. It was a depressing sight for senior offensive lineman Larry Warford. So when he returned for this year's Spring Game and there were 50,000 fans in the stands — more than double the UK record — he was impressed. "I was in shock," Warford says. "I have never seen that before. I wanted to jump back on the field with them and wanted to be out there with those guys in that excitement. Coach Stoops has been doing a great job in getting people back into the program again."

**LOWERY LEADING THE SECONDARY** A guy who's started nine career games — and made only 59 tackles — seems an unlikely leader, but UK's defensive backfield is light on experience, and somebody's got to be in charge. Junior safety Ashely Lowery has accepted that challenge. "I think he's leading vocally," safeties coach Bradley Dale Peveto says. "He's talking it — but he's walking the walk. I'm watching him back it up right now. That's a step. That group, there wasn't a vocal leader in it."

**AT HOME IN OHIO** The state of Kentucky produces very little elite college football talent, and the Cats, northernmost members of the SEC until Missouri joined, are farther away from most of the prospect-rich Southern states. Ohio, loaded with players, has long seemed a solution, but UK hasn't mined the state very successfully. Mike Stoops and new tight ends coach Vince Marrow are quickly changing that. Both went to powerhouse Cardinal Mooney High in Youngstown, Ohio. They have deep ties and a strong commitment to reeling in the state's best. In just six weeks, Marrow landed three 2013 Ohio players ranked top-40 in the state by Rivals, including 4-star safety Marcus McWilson, the first top-10 player from the Buckeye State to pick the Cats in more than a decade. Then former 4-star running back Braylon Heard, from Youngstown, decided to transfer to UK. And Marrow already has four 2014 Ohio players committed, each of them ranked top-25 nationally at their positions per Rivals.

**MR. FIX-IT** The Cats ranked last in the country in third down defense and 85th in points allowed. Good thing Stoops knows a thing or two about turning that around in a hurry. At Arizona, he took over a defense that ranked 71st or worse in every major category. Those Wildcats ended up in the top 25 in yards allowed his last two seasons. FSU ranked 108th in total defense before Stoops arrived, jumped into the top 50 his first year and ranked in the top five his final two seasons.

**FUTURE FIRST-ROUNDERS?** Stoops and defensive coordinator D.J. Eliot, who coached the line under Stoops at FSU, traveled to New York for the NFL Draft to support a pair of Seminole first-rounders, end Bjoern Werner and corner Xavier Rhodes. Kentucky hasn't had a first-round pick since defensive tackle Dewayne Robertson in 2003. On draft day, Stoops tweeted: "Looking forward to going to the Draft in future years with Wildcats!"



RB RAYMOND SANDERS



# 2013 SIGNEES

Kentucky's three recruiting classes before Mark Stoops included a total of eight players who were rated 4-star prospects by any of the major recruiting services. Stoops' first class alone had that many. Whereas Joker Phillips often stole recruits from MAC schools, Stoops and his staff beat out the likes of Florida, Florida State, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Ohio State and USC for some elite talent.

Rivals ranked the class 29th nationally, UK's best haul since the site started the rankings in 2002.

"I said that in the first press conference," Stoops says, "That we would go toe-to-toe with the best schools in the country and with the best schools in the SEC. We're not going to take a back seat to anyone. We're going to recruit hard. We will win our fair share."

Safety Marcus McWilson, a Cornhuskers commit, flipped for the

Cats. Wide receiver Ryan Timmons, who averaged a touchdown every third time he got the ball his final two seasons in high school, said no to the Gators and Buckeyes. Defensive end Jason Hatcher backed out on the Trojans. Junior college signees Za'Darius Smith and Steven Borden enrolled in January and are well on their way to helping the Cats this fall at defensive end and tight end, respectively. Smith, who looked unblockable in spring ball, had his pick of top schools across the South.

After a month of spring practice to evaluate, this was Stoops' take: "We need help at every position. We need to improve across the board. But what stands out to me right now is the skill positions, both on offense and defense. We

need to get a lot better in the secondary and we need to get better at wide receiver." Lucky for Kentucky, then, that four new receivers and four defensive backs are coming in the fall. The Cats also signed 4-star running back Jojo Kemp, a quartet of offensive linemen and six defensive linemen. It was a well-rounded class that should immediately upgrade UK's talent.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ...

DE • **JASON HATCHER** • LOUISVILLE, KY

Jason Hatcher, a 6'3", 250-pound end, showed no interest in the Cats while Joker Phillips was still the coach. A U.S. Army All-American, Hatcher had offers from just about every major program and committed to USC. He flirted with the hometown Cardinals. But it wasn't until Stoops and Co. came to Lexington that Hatcher gave UK the time of day.

When he made the call on Signing Day, it was a huge in-state coup for the Cats.

"Jason was important in a lot of ways," Stoops says. "Gives us great credibility moving forward."

Stoops calls him "dynamic" and "explosive" with a quick first step and elite speed off the edge. The kind of player Stoops and defensive coordinator D.J. Eliot molded into stars at Florida State.

"I felt like it was going to be a challenge" to land Hatcher, Eliot says, "but I felt like we had something to offer him that he was going to be interested in, so I kept going after him."

"He is extremely motivated to be a great player. He has the skills to be fantastic. But it's kind of what he has inside that I think is going to make him special, and I'm really looking forward to coaching him."

## BREAKDOWN BY POSITION

Defensive Linemen	6
Defensive Backs	4
Offensive Linemen	4
Wide Receivers	4
Running Backs	2
Kickers	1
Quarterbacks	1
Tight Ends	1

## BY STATE

Florida	11
Kentucky	3
Ohio	3
Alabama	2
California	1
South Carolina	1
Tennessee	1
Texas	1

WR **JEFF BADET** 6-0, 170, ORLANDO, FL  
Ranked No. 13 on the *Orlando Sentinel* Central Florida Super 60. Finished fifth in the long jump at the Florida state track and field championships.

DE **ALVONTE BELL** 6-5, 255, MIRAMAR, FL  
The nation's No. 24 weak-side defensive end by Rivals and the No. 34 overall defensive end according to Scout.

WR **JAVESS BLUE** 6-0, 190, BABSON PARK, FL  
Second-team NJCAA All-American during his sophomore season at Butler (Kan.) Community College. Ranked as the nation's No. 14 junior college player by ESPN.

TE **STEVEN BORDEN** 6-3, 250, WAXAHACHIE, TX  
Versatile athlete who has the size to play tight end and the athleticism to play as a slot receiver. Second-team all-conference tight end at Kilgore (Texas) College.

OL **JUSTIN DAY** 6-8, 305, AIKEN, SC  
First-team All-State and All-Region. Was a standout at the Rivals South Carolina Elite 100 Camp in the spring of 2012.

DE **JASON HATCHER** 6-3, 250, LOUISVILLE, KY  
Rated the No. 8 defensive end in the country by Rivals, No. 10 by Scout, No. 14 by ESPN and No. 16 by 247Sports. Played in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

OL **NICK HAYNES** 6-3, 305, NICEVILLE, FL  
Ranked as the nation's No. 40 guard by Rivals. Only played two years of football in high school.

DL **JACOB HYDE** 6-2, 330, MANCHESTER, KY  
Rated as one of the nation's top 50 defensive tackles by Rivals and 247Sports.

CB **JALEEL HYTCHYE** 5-10, 175, CINCINNATI, OH  
Ranked as the No. 20 prospect in Ohio and among the top-25 cornerbacks in the nation by ESPN.

RB **JOJO KEMP** 5-10, 190, DELAND, FL  
Rushed 255 times as a senior for 1,469 yards and 23 touchdowns. Rated the nation's No. 10 multipurpose back by Rivals.

DT **MELVIN LEWIS** 5-4, 320, COMPTON, CA  
Recorded 41 tackles and 3.5 sacks last season at Fullerton (Calif.) College.

K **AUSTIN MacGINNIS** 5-10, 175, PRATTVILLE, AL  
One of the nation's top-three kicking according to Rivals and 247Sports.

DB **BLAKE McCLAIN** 5-11, 190, WINTER PARK, FL  
Rated the nation's No. 66 safety by ESPN and the No. 61 cornerback by Rivals.

S **MARCUS McWILSON** 6-0, 210, YOUNGSTOWN, OH  
Ranked as one of the nation's top 20 safeties by Scout and Rivals.com. Ranked No. 18 nationally in the athlete category by 247Sports.

OL **KYLE MEADOWS** 6-5, 270, WEST CHESTER, OH  
No. 38 overall offensive tackle according to Scout. The No. 31 player in the 247Sports Composite in Ohio.

DL **REGIE MEANT** 6-4, 275, CAPE CORAL, FL  
Second-team All-State in Florida Class AAAA as a senior.

OL **RAMSEY MEYERS** 6-4, 290, ORANGE PARK, FL  
The nation's No. 60 guard prospect by 247Sports and ranked No. 61 by Scout. First-team All-State Class 6A as a senior.

WR **ALEX MONTGOMERY** 6-2, 210, WESTON, FL  
Ranked as the nation's No. 51 wide receiver by Rivals. Had 42 catches for 892 yards and seven touchdowns his senior year.

QB **REESE PHILLIPS** 6-2, 225, SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TN  
Two-year All-State quarterback, and also a two-year All-District performer in baseball, playing shortstop and pitching.

DE **ZA'DARIUS SMITH** 6-6, 250, GREENVILLE, AL  
The nation's No. 1 junior college strong-side defensive end prospect by JCGridiron.com. The nation's No. 10 overall juco prospect by ESPN.

RB **KHALID THOMAS** 5-10, 170, TALLAHASSEE, FL  
The nation's No. 27 all-purpose back by 247Sports. Brother of current UK line-backer Kadeem "Pancho" Thomas.

WR **RYAN TIMMONS** 5-10, 185, FRANKFORT, KY  
Ranked as the nation's No. 23 running back by 247Sports, the No. 28 athlete by ESPN and the No. 46 wide receiver by Scout.

DB **NATE WILLIS** 6-0, 180, PAHOKEE, FL  
Rated as the No. 3 junior college cornerback in the nation by 247Sports despite not playing football his last two seasons of high school.



# M MISSOURI TIGERS

NATIONAL FORECAST: 48 // SEC EAST PREDICTION: 6

**S**o Missouri's first year in the SEC didn't turn out so hot. The Tigers suffered their first losing season since 2004 and had their streak of seven straight bowl berths snapped. Missouri's season of change didn't slow down much in the offseason when offensive coordinator David Yost abruptly resigned. Rather than energize his program with a splashy outside hire, head coach Gary Pinkel did what he does and promoted from within. Former offensive line coach Josh Henson is now in charge of a Missouri offense that found life in the SEC to be more physical — and low scoring — than the Big 12.

"When you go through adversity, the one thing I embrace ... (is) our foundation," Pinkel says. "I think it's really important for your players, your staff and everyone within to know that there's vision and there's something we believe in."

Faith in Pinkel could be floundering as he enters his 13th year at Missouri. The Tigers haven't suffered back-to-back losing seasons since Pinkel's first two years in Columbia, and the Tigers' transition to the SEC was hardly smooth.

After a clear step back, Missouri needs to move forward in 2013 or be left in the dust of their new conference foes.

**QUARTERBACKS** The Tigers return two veterans with starting experience, but redshirt freshman Maty Mauk might end up with the most snaps by season's end. Mauk evenly shared No. 1 reps during spring practice with senior James Franklin and sophomore Corbin Berkstresser, and a decision might not be made on a starter until the fall. Franklin appeared entrenched as the Tigers' starter following an impressive sophomore season in which he amassed 3,846 yards of offense and accounted for 36 touchdowns in Missouri's final season in the Big 12, but injuries last year to his shoulder, knee, head — and, perhaps, ego — limited him to 1,562 passing yards in nine games. Berkstresser started four games but was generally ineffective. He completed less than 50 percent of his passes in 10 appearances and led the Tigers to a 2-2 record in his four starts. Mauk enters the mix unscathed and untested with Missouri fans wondering if the two-time Gatorade Ohio Player of the Year's record-setting high school credentials — he holds national records for career passing yards, touchdowns and total offense — can carry over to college. At the very least, Mauk figures to get a series or two each game and perhaps more if Franklin doesn't return to his sophomore form.

**RUNNING BACKS** The Tigers graduated a 1,000-yard back in '12 team MVP Kendal Lawrence but return another in the form of Henry Josey, who rushed for 1,168 yards in '11 before shredding his knee in the 10th game. After three knee surgeries and an entire year of rehabilitation, Josey was remarkably showing his old elusiveness in the spring. But can the Tigers realistically expect Josey to pick up where left off? Marcus Murphy was an outstanding backup behind Lawrence, averaging 5.5 yards per carry, but the return specialist might be more valuable to the Tigers on special teams. Russell Hansbrough saw action in nine games as a true freshman last year and could be poised to take over the position if Josey's knee acts up. Pinkel doesn't like to burn a freshman's redshirt unless he has plans to use him early and often. At 215 pounds, Greg White has about 25 pounds on his more explosive teammates and could be utilized in short-yardage situations.

**RECEIVERS** Taking over a position loaded with returning experience and unfulfilled potential, receivers coach Pat Washington could be just what this group needs. Marcus Lucas led the team in receptions and yards with meager totals of 46 and 509, respectively. The 6'5" senior is among four rangy receivers who stand at least 6'4". Fellow senior L'Damian Washington started all 12 games last year, averaging 17.7 yards per catch. Dorial Green-Beckham might join the 1,000-yard club in only his second season with the Tigers. The former No. 1 overall high school recruit from Springfield, Mo., was brought along slowly but showed flashes of his vast potential by grabbing four of his team-high five touchdowns over the final three games. Don't be surprised if Green-Beckham has a huge

## 2013 SCHEDULE

### AUGUST

31 Murray State

### SEPTEMBER

7 Toledo

21 at Indiana

28 Arkansas State

### OCTOBER

5 at Vanderbilt

12 at Georgia

19 Florida

26 South Carolina

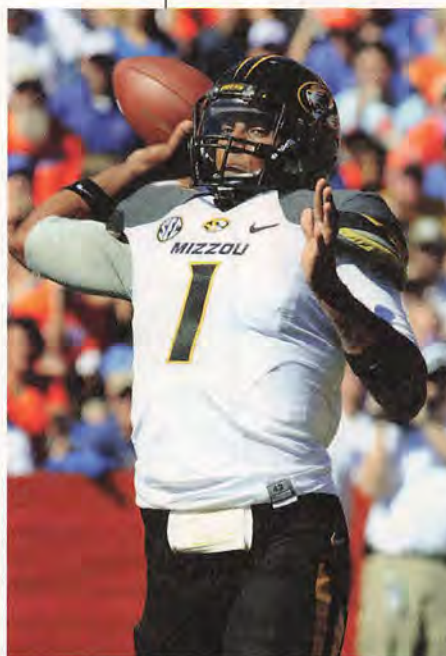
### NOVEMBER

2 Tennessee

9 at Kentucky

23 at Ole Miss

30 Texas A&M



JAMES FRANKLIN

## THE VERDICT

### 2013 PROJECTION: 5-7, 1-7 SEC

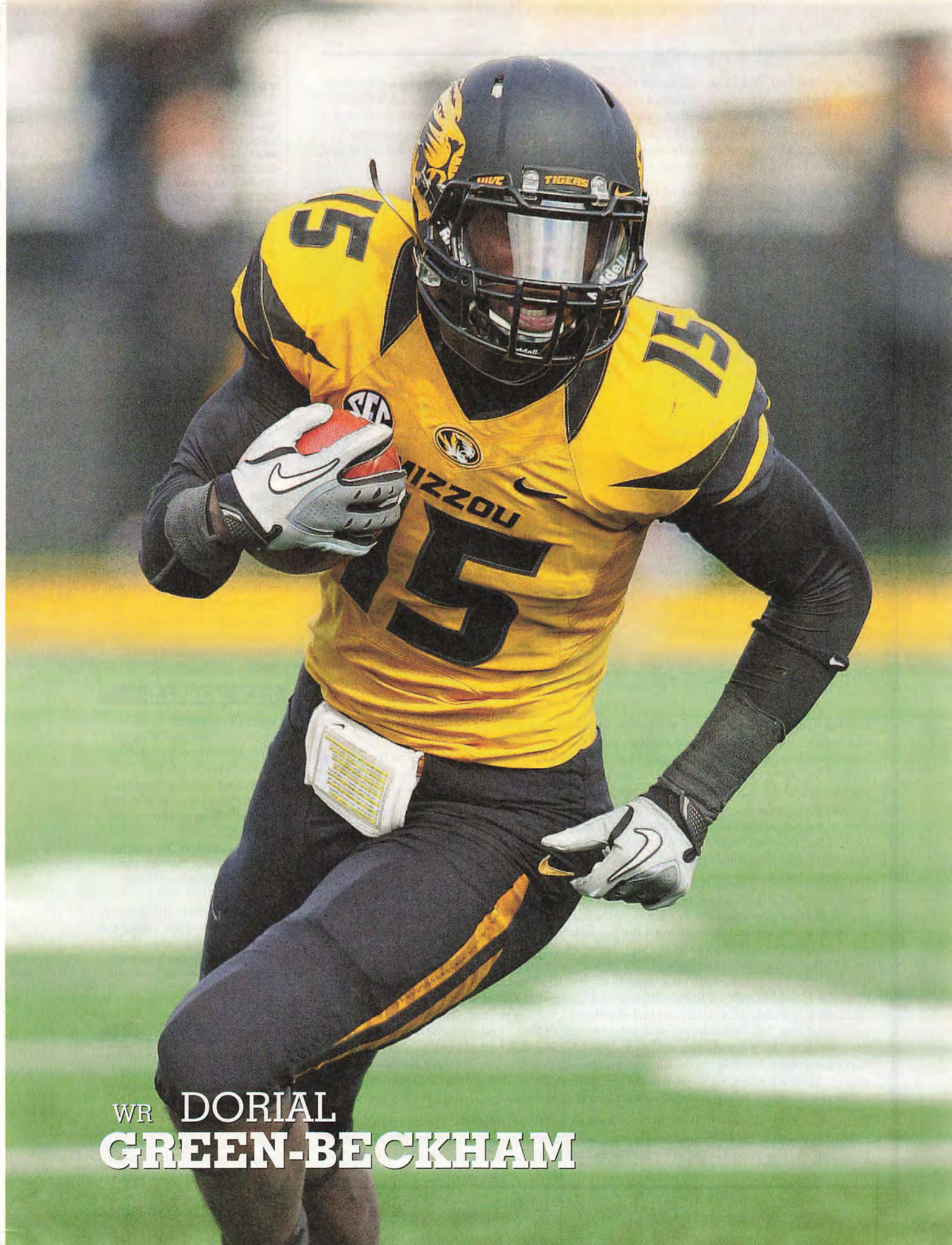
If quarterback James Franklin and running back Henry Josey return to full strength, Missouri should be a much-improved team. Josey missed all of 2012 rehabbing a torn ACL and MCL, and Franklin was less than 100 percent while dealing with shoulder and knee injuries. The Tigers have a capable group of receivers, and the offensive line returns four starters. The defense struggled in 2012, allowing 408.3 yards per game in SEC play. Defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson, a first-team all-conference selection, will be difficult to replace. A three-game homestand late in the year could decide whether Missouri is back in a bowl or headed for another losing season.

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Franklin: Mark Langelos; Green-Beckham: Tim Unphery





WR DORIAL  
**GREEN-BECKHAM**



sophomore season. Bud Sasser and Jimmie Hunt also offered big plays in limited opportunities. Sasser started the final six games and averaged a team-high 23.1 yards on his 10 receptions, while Hunt averaged 18.1 yards on 11 catches. After a string of All-America-caliber tight ends, production from this position slipped considerably in '12. Eric Waters started six games but caught only four passes. Sean Culkin offers more of a receiving threat and probably would have played as a true freshman last year if not for a broken finger in the preseason.

**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** This unit had its share of struggles in its first go-around in the SEC, but four starters are back and eager to give it another go. Evan Boehm could be considered the leader of the group after starting all 12 games at left guard

## DEPTH CHART

### OFFENSE (8)

WR 85	Marcus Lucas (Sr.)	88	Jimmie Hunt (Jr.)
WR 15	Dorial Green-Beckham (So.)	21	Bud Sasser (Jr.)
WR 2	L'Damian Washington (Sr.)	14	Jaleel Clark (Sr.)
LT 68	Justin Britt (Sr.)	70	Anthony Gatti (Jr.)
LG 61	Max Copeland (Sr.)	73	Mitch Hall (So.)
C 77	Evan Boehm (So.)	51	Robert Luce (Jr.)
RG 60	Connor McGovern (So.)	63	Brad McNulty (So.)
RT 65	Mitch Morse (Jr.)	62	Taylor Chappell (So.)
TE 81	Eric Waters (Sr.)	80	Sean Culkin (Fr.)
QB 1	James Franklin (Sr.)	7	Maty Mauk (Fr.)
TB 20	Henry Josey (Jr.)	32	Russell Hansbrough (So.)

### DEFENSE (6)

DE 47	Kony Ealy (Jr.)	56	Shane Ray (So.)
DT 89	Matt Hoch (Jr.)	90	Harold Brantley (Fr.)
NG 96	Lucas Vincent (Jr.)	94	Marvin Foster (Sr.)
DE 52	Michael Sam (Sr.)	55	Brayden Burnett (Sr.)
WLB 12	Darvin Ruise (Jr.)	10	Kentrell Brothers (So.)
MLB 48	Andrew Wilson (Sr.)	30	Michael Scherer (Fr.)
SAM 8	Donovan Bonner (Sr.)	40	Clarence Green (So.)
CB 31	E.J. Gaines (Sr.)	26	Xavier Smith (Jr.)
CB 3	David Johnson (So.)	7	Randy Ponder (Sr.)
SS 17	Matt White (Sr.)	28	Ernest Payton (So.)
FS 9	Brayton Webb (Jr.)	4	Daniel Easterly (Jr.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K 99	Andrew Baggett (Jr.)	KR 6	Marcus Murphy (Jr.)
P 92	Christian Brinser (Jr.)	PR 6	Marcus Murphy (Jr.)

as a true freshman. Boehm moved to center in the spring — a position he's never played — and appeared to ease the considerable issues with shotgun snaps the Tigers suffered through last year. Mitch Morse started at center last year but finished the year at right tackle. Left tackle Justin Britt and left guard Max Copeland are also returning starters and the only seniors of the group. Britt is entering his third year as a starter but missed the final three games with a knee injury. Copeland, a fiery former walk-on from Montana, made the most of the playing time offered by injuries and evolved into a vocal leader of the line. Connor McGovern has the inside track on the remaining starting position, with fellow 300-plus pound sophomores Brad McNulty, Mitch Hall and Taylor Chappell also in the mix.

**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** Hard to imagine a defense that ranked 10th in the SEC getting much better now that Sheldon Richardson is off to the NFL. There is no replacement for Richardson, but there is plenty of playing experience back along the line. Matt Hoch started all 12 games at tackle and will be returning to the same position for the first time in his college career after being recruited as a tight end and playing defensive end as a sophomore. He'll be flanked by Lucas Vincent, who played in all 12 games despite an assortment of injuries that limited him to just three tackles. Marvin Foster has also battled injuries throughout a career that's seen him make 13 tackles in 19 games. Redshirt freshman Harold Brantley, a former fullback and 275-pound kick returner in high school, offers Richardson-like athleticism on the inside after bulking up to 300 pounds. "He hasn't done anything yet," Pinkel says, "but he has the potential to be an impact player." End offers the most experience of any position on defense, with starters Kony Ealy and Michael Sam back along with reserves Brayden Burnett and Shane Ray. Ealy has the talent to excel in spurts but has yet to harness game-breaking consistency. Markus Golden, a converted junior college linebacker, could also add a much-needed pass-rushing element to a defense that collected only 21 sacks last year.

**LINEBACKERS** Andrew Wilson's 23 career starts represent the bulk of the Tigers' experience here. He's led Missouri in tackles the past two seasons and last year forced four fumbles, but it's anyone's guess who will play alongside the senior middle linebacker in the fall. Donovan Bonner started twice



**5.5** Missouri allowed 5.5 yards per play last year, its worst average since giving up 5.8 in Gary Pinkel's second season as head coach 2002.

## TEAM INFORMATION

### HEAD COACH

Gary Pinkel

### RECORD AT SCHOOL

90-61 (12 years)

### CAREER RECORD

163-98-3 (22 years)

### OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Josh Henson

### DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Dave Steckel

### LOCATION

Columbia, MO

### STADIUM

Memorial Stadium (71,004)

## KEY TIGERS

**E.J. Gaines, CB** Had 27 pass breakups, three interceptions the past two years and last year led all SEC cornerbacks with 74 tackles.

**James Franklin QB** Will he return to form or ride the bench after an inconsistent, injury-plagued '12? A happy, healthy Franklin is good news for the Tigers.

**Dorial Green-Beckham, WR** Former No. 1 national recruit showed flashes as a freshman, but the Tigers need him to make a sophomore splash.

**Marcus Murphy, RB/KR** Returned three punts and one kickoff for scores last year, while averaging 5.5 yards per carry as a reserve running back.

**Kony Ealy, DE** Defense devoid of established playmakers needs athletic pass-rusher to step up in second year as starter.

## KEY LOSSES

**Sheldon Richardson, DT** Heralded high school recruit played only two years for Tigers, finally living up to the hype as a senior during All-SEC campaign.

**T.J. Moe, WR** Three-year starter was steady safety net for quarterbacks, finishing career with 188 receptions for 2,101 yards.

**Kendall Lawrence, RB** Was voted the Tigers' 2012 MVP by teammates after rushing for 1,025 yards and 12 touchdowns.

**Elvis Fisher, LT** Leader of the line has finally left the building after a sixth year of eligibility and 49 career starts.

**Trey Barrow, P** Boomed 18 punts of 50 yards or more and dropped 30 inside the opponents' 20-yard line.

## RISING STAR

The Tigers return two QBs with starting experience, but redshirt freshman **Maty Mauk** shared starting snaps with both veterans during spring drills and could be poised to take over sooner rather than later. The two-time Gatorade Ohio Player of the Year holds national records for career passing yards (18,932), TDs (219), completions (1,353) and total offense (22,681).

Tim Umphrey



# 2013 MISSOURI ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
13 Berkstresser, Corbin	6-3/225	So.	Lee's Summit, MO
12 Carpenter, Colby	6-2/220	Fr.	Dallas, TX
17 Demczak, Alex	6-0/200	Jr.	Springfield, IL
1 Franklin, James	6-2/230	Sr.	Corinth, TX
11 Hosick, Trent	6-1/230	Fr.	Kansas City, MO
16 Laurent, Eric	6-3/205	Fr.	Ballwin, MO
7 Mauk, Maty	6-1/200	Fr.	Kenton, OH
9 Printz, Eddie	6-3/210	Fr.	Marietta, GA
38 Swearingen, Reid	6-3/190	Fr.	Sedalia, MO

RUNNING BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
10 Drummond, Miles	5-11/215	Fr.	Centralia, MO
32 Hansbrough, Russell	5-9/185	So.	Arlington, TX
35 Hunt, Tyler	5-11/210	Jr.	Westran, MO
20 Josey, Henry	5-10/190	Jr.	Angleton, TX
6 Murphy, Marcus	5-9/185	Jr.	DeSoto, TX
41 Stevens, Andrew	5-9/195	Fr.	St. Louis, MO
36 Steward, Morgan	6-0/215	Fr.	Kansas City, MO
24 White, Greg	6-1/215	Jr.	DeQueen, AR

RECEIVERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
26 Brents, Jake	6-3/200	Fr.	Springfield, MO
43 Chancey, Cameron	6-0/180	So.	Branson, MO
14 Clark, Jaleel	6-4/220	Sr.	Allentown, PA
16 Copelin, Levi	6-2/185	Fr.	Broken Arrow, OK
17 Gerau, Sheldon	6-0/200	So.	Columbia, MO
15 Green-Beckham, Dorial	6-6/220	So.	Springfield, MO
88 Hunt, Jimmie	6-1/215	Jr.	Cahokia, IL
18 Leftwich, Wesley	6-1/195	So.	Columbia, MO
85 Lucas, Marcus	6-5/220	Sr.	Liberty, MO
87 Otte, Gavin	5-11/200	Jr.	Rolla, MO
21 Sasser, Bud	6-2/210	Jr.	Denton, TX
2 Washington, L'Damian	6-4/200	Sr.	Shreveport, LA
8 White, Darius	6-3/200	Jr.	Fort Worth, TX

TIGHT ENDS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
84 Colbert, Brandon	6-3/225	Jr.	Troy, MO
80 Culkin, Sean	6-6/240	Fr.	Indian Rocks Beach, FL
86 Hurrell, Jake	6-3/235	Fr.	Saint Peters, MO
46 Peasel, Kyle	6-3/230	Sr.	Troy, MO
81 Waters, Eric	6-4/245	Sr.	Mansfield, TX

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
67 Boddie, Michael	6-5/295	So.	Gilmer, TX
77 Boehm, Evan	6-3/315	So.	Lee's Summit, MO
68 Britt, Justin	6-6/320	Sr.	Lebanon, MO
51 Carberry, Stephen	6-4/300	Jr.	Belleville, IL
62 Chappell, Taylor	6-5/320	So.	Canadian, TX
61 Copeland, Max	6-3/295	Sr.	Billings, MT
78 Demien, Nick	6-6/300	Jr.	Wentzville, MO
79 Franklin, Adam	6-0/265	So.	Raytown, MO
74 Freeman, Chris	6-8/335	Jr.	Trotwood, OH
70 Gatti, Anthony	6-6/315	Jr.	St. Louis, MO
71 Grava, Justin	6-3/260	Fr.	Alpharetta, GA
73 Hall, Mitch	6-5/320	So.	Russellville, AR
69 Hall, Mitch	6-1/285	So.	Burnsville, MN
56 Luce, Robert	6-2/300	Jr.	Dallas, TX
60 McGovern, Connor	6-4/315	So.	Fargo, ND
63 McNulty, Brad	6-4/305	So.	Allen, TX
54 Monaghan, Nick	6-2/245	So.	Darien, IL

65 Morse, Mitch	6-5/305	Jr.	Austin, TX
59 Starke, Kyle	6-4/310	So.	Liberty, MO
76 Williams, Jordan	6-2/275	Fr.	Denton, TX

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
90 Brantley, Harold	6-3/300	Fr.	Hershey, PA
55 Burnett, Brayden	6-2/245	Sr.	Southlake, TX
99 Butler, David	6-4/280	Jr.	Kansas City, MO
47 Ealy, Kony	6-5/275	Jr.	New Madrid, MO
98 Echard, Clayton	6-5/260	So.	Eureka, MO
94 Foster, Marvin	6-1/290	Sr.	Fort Worth, TX
33 Golden, Markus	6-3/255	Jr.	St. Louis, MO
95 Hatley, Rickey	6-4/260	Fr.	Atlanta, TX
89 Hoch, Matt	6-5/295	Jr.	Harlan, IA
64 Lickerman, Keric	6-3/235	So.	Wildwood, MO
51 Mack, Steven	6-0/245	Jr.	Chicago, IL
56 Ray, Shane	6-3/245	So.	Shawnee Mission, KS
52 Sam, Michael	6-3/255	Sr.	Hitchcock, TX
96 Vincent, Lucas	6-2/295	Jr.	Olathe, KS
50 Winston, Evan	6-3/300	Fr.	Muskegon Heights, MI

LINEBACKERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
8 Bonner, Donovan	6-1/240	Sr.	Dallas, TX
11 Boozer, Torey	6-2/230	Fr.	Everman, TX
54 Brennan, Michael	6-2/235	Sr.	Kahoka, MO
10 Brothers, Kentrell	6-1/235	So.	Guthrie, OK
40 Green, Clarence	6-0/225	So.	Clute, TX
43 Hull, Tanner	6-0/215	Fr.	Kansas City, MO
49 Martin, Denzel	5-10/230	Sr.	Ladue, MO
25 Newsom, Donavin	6-2/230	Fr.	St. Louis, MO
12 Ruise, Darwin	6-1/245	Jr.	Glen St. Mary, FL
30 Scherer, Michael	6-3/235	Fr.	St. Louis, MO
48 Wilson, Andrew	6-3/235	Sr.	Peculiar, MO

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
10 Bondurant, Brock	6-2/215	Fr.	Memphis, MO
5 Browning, Cortland	6-1/210	So.	Tyler, TX
45 Davis, Tyler	6-0/200	Sr.	Eldon, MO
4 Easterly, Daniel	6-4/215	Jr.	Detroit, MI
46 Edwards, Jared	5-10/195	Fr.	Lake Ozark, MO
29 Edwards, Zach	5-9/190	Fr.	Lake Ozark, MO
31 Gaines, E.J.	5-10/195	Sr.	Independence, MO
1 Gibson, John	5-11/185	Fr.	Missouri City, TX
18 Godas, Michael	6-0/210	So.	Columbia, MO
3 Johnson, David	5-11/190	So.	Spring, TX
28 Payton, Ernest	6-2/210	So.	College Station, TX
7 Ponder, Randy	5-10/190	Sr.	Edmond, OK
21 Simon, Ian	5-11/195	So.	Mansfield, TX
26 Smith, Xavier	5-11/185	Jr.	Edmond, OK
22 Sowell, David	5-10/185	Fr.	Homewood, IL
33 Wade, Jordan	5-9/195	Jr.	Lee's Summit, MO
19 Ward, Chaston	6-1/205	Fr.	Cleburne, TX
9 Webb, Braylon	6-0/205	Jr.	Gilmer, TX
17 White, Matt	6-0/195	Sr.	Keller, TX

SPECIALISTS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
99 Baggett, Andrew (K)	6-2/220	So.	Lee's Summit, MO
92 Brinser, Christian (P)	6-1/200	Jr.	Liberty, MO
90 Coffman, Nick (K)	5-11/170	Fr.	Houston, TX
91 Owens, Blake (K)	5-11/200	Jr.	Kansas City, MO

## 2012 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-7, 2-6 (SEC)

Sept. 1	SE Louisiana	W	62-10
Sept. 8	Georgia	L	20-41
Sept. 15	Arizona State	W	24-20
Sept. 22	at South Carolina	L	10-31
Sept. 29	at UCF	W	21-16
Oct. 6	Vanderbilt	L	15-19
Oct. 13	Alabama	L	10-42
Oct. 27	Kentucky	W	33-10
Nov. 3	at Florida	L	7-14
Nov. 10	at Tennessee (ot)	W	51-48
Nov. 17	Syracuse	L	27-31
Nov. 24	at Texas A&M	L	29-59



MARCUS MURPHY

## 2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
James Franklin	234	139	1,562	10	7
C. Berkstresser	177	88	1,059	5	7

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Kendall Lawrence	200	1,025	5.1	12
Marcus Murphy	46	251	5.5	1
Russell Hansbrough	37	139	3.8	0
James Franklin	88	122	1.4	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Marcus Lucas	46	509	11.1	3
T.J. Moe	40	399	10.0	1
Gahn McGaffie	33	266	8.1	0
D. Green-Beckham	28	395	14.1	5

**KICKING:** Andrew Baggett, 14-20 FGs, 33-37 XPs, 75 points

**TACKLES:** Andrew Wilson, 79; Will Ebner, 75; Sheldon Richardson, 75

**SACKS:** Michael Sam, 4.5

**INTERCEPTIONS:** Kip Edwards, 2

Returning Players in Bold

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	25.8 ppg	11	80
Rushing	138.5 ypg	12	88
Passing	217.9 ypg	9	76
Total	356.4 ypg	11	96

Defense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	28.4 ppg	11	68
Rushing	149.3 ypg	9	49
Passing	241.4 ypg	10	74
Total	390.7 ypg	10	58

TD Margin	Per Game	SEC	National
+1	+0.08	7	55

## SCOUTING THE TIGERS

### OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP MISSOURI

"I respected their scheme tremendously. You watch the tape of their games against Big 12 competition from the previous year and you watched James Franklin operate, they were very impressive. They beat the hell out of a good North Carolina team in the Independence Bowl to finish that season. ... They got off to a decent start last year. They beat a pretty good Arizona State team, and they played very well against Georgia up until the end of the game. ... Between Franklin and some of the other guys getting hurt, especially on the offensive line, they really had trouble moving the ball. ... I don't think they have the skill at the wide receiver position or at the running back position that some of the other teams in the league did. And I think the overall SEC took its toll on them as the year went on. ... (Wide receiver) Dorial Green-Beckham didn't do much at all, and he was the No. 1 recruit in the nation. To be fair, they never really got the passing game going. He showed signs at times; he had a long reception against Central Florida. But he never got on track. I get the impression that he needs to mature a little bit. He got himself in trouble (suspended for the Vanderbilt game). But he was the No. 1 player in the 2012 recruiting class, so he's got plenty of talent. ... The running back coming back from injury, Henry Josey, he'll be dangerous if he returns healthy. Really talented back."



last year and had an interception. Darvin Ruise and Kentrell Brothers could end up sharing the other outside spot. Keep an eye on redshirt freshman Michael Scherer, who looks like the heir apparent to Wilson in the middle.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** Despite two starters departing, four Tigers have starting experience in the secondary. Cornerback E.J. Gaines has been consistently unspectacular the past two years, breaking up 27 passes but gathering only three interceptions. Missouri totaled only seven interceptions last year and allowed a whopping 44 pass plays of 20 yards or more. Only two other SEC teams allowed more big plays through the air. Cornerback Randy Ponder and safeties Braylon Webb and Matt White all have extensive experience, with a combined 87 games and 26 starts for the Tigers. Sophomore cornerback David Johnson might be the ball-hawking playmaker the Tigers have been missing.

**SPECIALISTS** For the first time in years, the Tigers offer a game-changing threat in the return game. Murphy returned one kickoff — against national champion Alabama — and three punts for touchdowns. Andrew Baggett is back at kicker, but he did miss four extra points in his first year on the job — thus leaving the door open for competition. The punting game could also be in trouble with a couple of walk-ons vying to replace Trey Barrow's steady two-year production.

## OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

**STAFF CHANGES** Missouri hasn't had a lot of coaching turnover during Gary Pinkel's tenure, but several changes occurred in the offseason when offensive coordinator and longtime Pinkel assistant David Yost abruptly resigned. As he did when previous offensive coordinator Dave Christensen left to take the head coaching job at Wyoming in 2009, Pinkel promoted from within. Former offensive line coach Josh Henson will be the new offensive coordinator, and former receivers coach Andy Hill will handle the quarterbacks, which was another duty of Yost's. Pinkel did hire an outsider to coach receivers, bringing in former Kentucky and Tennessee assistant Pat Washington to fill Hill's old role.

**OH HENRY!** Henry Josey was having the season of his life in 2011, just before he suffered what team doctor Pat Smith described as a "one-in-a-million" type injury to his left knee while gaining the last of his 1,168 yards in the 10th game against Texas. Josey tore the ACL, MCL and patella tendon in his left knee, requiring three surgeries and a full year of rehabilitation. Josey returned to practice in the spring without a knee brace and showed flashes of the runner who averaged 8.1 yards per carry in '11. "It's just a remarkable story of an incredible kid with an incredible amount of courage, toughness and determination to overcome the things he's overcome," Pinkel says.

**SPRING BREAK** Locked in a competition to keep his starting position following an injury-riddled '12, senior quarterback James Franklin spent his spring break in San Diego attending a five-day personal clinic with George Whitfield. The acclaimed quarterbacks coach has tutored former No. 1 draft picks Cam Newton and Andrew Luck, as well as Texas A&M Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Manziel. Pinkel had no problem with Franklin seeking outside instruction. "What I see from him is this competitiveness and desire to be a heck of a football player and probably prove some people wrong," Pinkel says.

**BIG SHOES** When defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson opted to enter the NFL Draft a year early, it left a huge hole in the middle of the Missouri defense. Filling it won't be easy, but 300-pound redshirt freshman Harold Brantley offers an intriguing, athletic possibility after scoring 19 touchdowns as a 275-pound high school fullback ... who also returned kicks. "I'm not saying he's Sheldon Richardson. Very few guys will ever move like him," Pinkel says. "But he's more in that mold as a quickness guy. ... He hasn't done anything yet, but he has the potential to be an impact player."

**MOVING THE "M"** A project to move the hill — and the large "M" made from whitewashed rocks — behind the north end zone closer to the field is expected to be complete for the 2013 opener. All the rocks on the 90' x 95' landmark that debuted in 1927 were removed and the hill pushed forward with more dirt in an effort to expand the north concourse area. The press box and luxury suite tower on the west side of Memorial Stadium is also being renovated.



LB ANDREW  
WILSON



# 2013 SIGNEES

Like everything around the Missouri football team, the 2013 recruiting class attempted to take on a Southern feel. Coach Gary Pinkel reassigned his recruiters in the offseason, shifting two to Florida and one to Georgia. The results were underwhelming. The Tigers signed only one recruit from each those states. Most notably, the list of new recruits only included three recruits from Texas, a state where Pinkel and his staff have been able to supplement their roster with less-heralded recruits who have gone on to star at Missouri.

Recruiting analysts generally perceived the class of 20 athletes as one of Pinkel's least impressive since he arrived at Missouri. Rivals ranked the class 41st in the country and last in the SEC. The low ranking, as usual, did not faze Pinkel. "I say this every year, and I'll say it again. We don't look at any stars on any players," he says. "It's never happened. We don't ever look at any rankings. We do what we do. I think over the years, it's

proved that it's worked in a very, very positive way for us in recruiting and bringing players in here to help us win a championship."

The signing of Kansas City defensive end Charles Harris illustrates Missouri's unorthodox recruiting style. Harris, who only started playing football as a junior in high school, did not have a profile on the major recruiting websites when he became a Signing Day surprise for the Tigers.

Overall, Missouri signed eight offensive players and 12 defensive players. The team's primary focus appeared to be on the defensive line, where it added three ends and three tackles to help alleviate the loss of All-SEC lineman Sheldon

Richardson, who entered the NFL Draft early.

The Tigers also shored up the state borders by signing 11 Missouri prospects, including St. Peter's tailback Chase Abbington — the only consensus 4-star recruit of the class. One that got away, though, was St. Louis running back Ezekiel Elliott. After a late recruiting push by the Tigers, Elliott chose Ohio State.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ...

### DT • A.J. LOGAN • COLUMBIA, MO

Football has been a salvation for A.J. Logan. Given the state of the Missouri depth chart, the Columbia native might soon become a salvation for his hometown Tigers. "Football is a release point," the 6'1", 315-pound defensive tackle from Rock Bridge High School told the *Columbia Daily Tribune*. "You've got a lot of stuff going on, but when you get out there on that field, it's just like being free. You can hit people without getting in trouble. You can just let go."

"A lot of stuff" is a simple way to put it for Logan, whose mother and older brother are currently serving prison sentences. Logan feared he was headed down the same path as a high school sophomore before his high school coach and stepmom challenged him to make his dreams of playing football come true.

After an all-state junior season, Logan repeated the feat as a senior by collecting 94 tackles (13 for a loss) and 6.5 sacks.

Tabbed as a 3-star recruit by Rivals and with only one offseason offer from Memphis, Logan gave an immediate verbal commitment to Missouri when the Tigers offered him a scholarship in early September. "If I wanted to go and really push the issue, he'd be a guy with 10 or 12 BCS offers," Rock Bridge coach A.J. Ofodile said.

Not that Logan was looking. Missouri was the program he was waiting to play for all along.

**TB CHASE ABBINGTON** 6-2, 205, ST. PETERS, MO  
Considered the No. 2 recruit in Missouri's class by ESPN and Rivals. Selected to the ESPN300 list of top recruits in the nation. Rated by Rivals as the 12th-best athlete in the nation.

**OL ALEC ABELN** 6-3, 280, ST. LOUIS, MO  
Considered the No. 15 center prospect in the nation by Rivals and No. 18 by ESPN. Ranked 17th overall in Missouri by Rivals.

**DL JOSH AUGUSTA** 6-4, 300, PEORIA, IL  
Rated No. 161 in the ESPN300 list of top recruits in the nation and was ranked the seventh-best recruit in Illinois. Selected to the 2013 Semper Fidelis All-American Game.

**LB ERIC BEISEL** 6-2, 240, FENTON, MO  
Rated the No. 4 prospect in Missouri by ESPN and No. 9 by Rivals. Ranked third in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch's* Super 30 list of area recruits. Rated the No. 45 inside linebacker in the country by Rivals.

**LB JOEY BURKETT** 6-1, 210, JEFFERSON CITY, MO  
Rated ninth overall in the state by ESPN, as well as No. 58 in the nation at outside linebacker.

**DL NATE CRAWFORD** 6-4, 285, PENSACOLA, FL  
Rated the No. 75 defensive tackle prospect in the nation by ESPN. Earned second-team All-State honors as a senior.

**OL HARNEET GILL** 6-6, 280, ST. LOUIS, MO  
Considered the No. 70 offensive tackle recruit in the nation by Rivals. No. 11 prospect in Missouri by Rivals and No. 18 by ESPN.

**DL CHARLES HARRIS** 6-4, 220, KANSAS CITY, MO  
Multisport in-state athlete who excelled on the basketball court for Lincoln Prep High School. Recorded 60 tackles, 12.0 sacks and two forced fumbles as a senior.

**QB TRENT HOSICK** 6-2, 230, KANSAS CITY, MO  
The 19th-ranked dual-threat quarterback in the nation according to Rivals. Finalist for the Wendy's High School Heisman Award. Rated as the sixth-best recruit in the state of Missouri by Rivals.

**DL A.J. LOGAN** 6-1, 315, COLUMBIA, MO  
Earned Missouri Class 6 first team All-State recognition. Had 13 tackles for a loss and four forced fumbles as a senior.

**DL MARCUS LOUD** 6-4, 255, HOUSTON, TX  
The No. 27 strong-side defensive end recruit in the country, according to Rivals. Rated as the 76th-best overall recruit in the state of Texas.

**WR J'MON MOORE** 6-3, 185, MISSOURI CITY, TX  
No. 77 in Rivals' Texas Top 100. Ranked as the No. 73 wide receiver recruit in the class of 2013 by Rivals.

**DB AARION PENTON** 5-10, 185, ST. LOUIS, MO  
No. 15 prospect in Missouri according to Rivals, No. 16 according to ESPN. Had 59 catches for 896 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior.

**QB EDDIE PRINTZ** 6-3, 210, MARIETTA, GA  
The No. 32 pro-style quarterback in the nation according to Rivals. Selected to the 2013 Semper Fidelis All-American Game. Passed for 2,959 yards and 29 touchdowns as a senior after throwing for 3,393 yards and 30 scores as a junior.

**TE JASON REESE** 6-3, 235, EULESS, TX  
Considered the No. 23 tight end recruit in the nation. Earned First-Team Super Team honors from the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.

**OL CLAY RHODES** 6-5, 285, STILLWELL, KS  
Considered the No. 73 offensive tackle recruit in the nation by ESPN. Rivals' No. 2 prospect in Kansas. Chose Missouri over Kansas State, LSU, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Oregon State.

**DB SHAUN RUPERT** 6-0, 180, MONTGOMERY, AL  
Rated the No. 69 safety in the nation and the 44th-best overall recruit in Alabama by ESPN.

**DB ANTHONY SHERRILS** 5-11, 180, KANSAS CITY, MO  
Rated by Rivals as the eighth-best recruit in the state and the No. 65 athlete in the nation.

**DB DURON SINGLETON** 6-1, 210, NEW ORLEANS, LA  
Highly sought-after junior college safety who went to Fresno City (Calif.) Community College. Rated as the No. 1 junior college safety in the nation by 247Sports and considered a 4-star prospect.

**DL ANTAR THOMPSON** 6-3, 300, MAPLEWOOD, MO  
Rated No. 5 overall in the state of Missouri by Rivals and No. 7 by ESPN. Considered the No. 35 defensive tackle prospect in the county by Rivals. Had 98 tackles and 18.0 sacks as a senior.





# SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

NATIONAL FORECAST: 5 // SEC EAST PREDICTION: 2

**B**efore the past three seasons, South Carolina's success came in fits and starts. In 1958, the Gamecocks finished ranked 15th in the Associated Press Poll, but would not crack the final top 25 again until 1984, when they finished No. 11, on the strength of a 10-2 season that would serve as their gold standard for the next 26 years.

There was the 8-4 year of 1987, which brought a No. 15 final ranking. And there were Lou Holtz's first two seasons, 2000 and 2001, when the Gamecocks went 8-4 and 9-3, with final rankings of No. 19 and 13 — after going 1-10 and 0-11 in 1998 and '99.

But nothing in South Carolina's history has paralleled the sustained success of 2010-12, during which the Gamecocks went 9-5, 11-2 and 11-2, and played in the SEC Championship Game in 2010. They went 5-3 against the league that year, and they actually improved that record to 6-2 in each of the next two seasons, despite falling short of the conference title game both years.

What does Steve Spurrier have in store for his ninth season? He brings back two proven quarterbacks, Connor Shaw and Dylan Thompson, and a defensive end, Jadeveon Clowney, who some observers believe could be the first strictly defensive player to win the Heisman Trophy. Even if Clowney doesn't win, he is all but a lock to be the No. 1 overall pick in next year's NFL Draft.

After finishing ninth in the AP Poll in 2011 and eighth last year, the bar is higher than ever for Spurrier's Gamecocks.

**QUARTERBACKS** At Florida in the 1990s, Spurrier won while playing two quarterbacks at times. He might do it again this season. Shaw's injuries gave Thompson opportunities last season, which ended by Thompson throwing the game-winning touchdown pass at the finish of the Outback Bowl. He had played all of the previous game, a win over rival Clemson. So what now? Thompson, a junior, says Spurrier told him to expect to play this season. Shaw, a senior, missed all of spring practices while undergoing foot surgery, but that doesn't concern quarterbacks coach G.A. Mangus. "He's the veteran," Mangus says. "He's been there. He's gone through springs. Missing this one, I don't think is going to put him behind at all. He'll get caught up."

**RUNNING BACKS** Marcus Lattimore was the heart and soul of the Gamecocks' program for the past three seasons. But he turned pro early, after a devastating knee injury, and now Spurrier will try to replace him with another high-profile recruit, Mike Davis, who had 52 carries for 275 yards last season as a true freshman. Davis needed to improve his pass-blocking this spring. He did, which enabled him to beat out the slower Brandon Wilds for the job. "Mike is a tremendously talented player," Thompson says. "In high school, I think he just ran, ran, ran. And you get here and you've got to pick out, out of three guys, which one is coming (on a blitz). That's a totally different ball game for him. This spring, I can't recall a time he messed up on a pass-block, which was something different than the fall."

**RECEIVERS** In 2011, Bruce Ellington played college football for the first time, after being a basketball player in his first school year at South Carolina. In 2013, he will play both sports for the third straight year. He struggled at times in 2011 on the football field because he played primarily quarterback in high school. But in 2012, when South Carolina needed to replace Alshon Jeffery's production, Ellington blossomed into a more complete player. He was on the receiving end of Thompson's Outback Bowl-winning touchdown pass, and he finished the season with a team-best 600 yards. Ace Sanders, the team leader with 45 catches, turned pro early, just as Jeffery did, and now South Carolina needs someone to complement Ellington. Junior Nick Jones is the most experienced option, but he has only 24 career catches. Shaq Roland was the highest-rated recruit in South Carolina's Class of 2012, and after he caught only five passes last season, he impressed the coaches with his progress in the spring. "He's moving at the speed that he can run at," says receivers coach Steve Spurrier Jr.

## 2013 SCHEDULE

### AUGUST

29 North Carolina

### SEPTEMBER

7 at Georgia

14 Vanderbilt

28 at UCF

### OCTOBER

5 Kentucky

12 at Arkansas

19 at Tennessee

26 at Missouri

### NOVEMBER

2 Mississippi State

16 Florida

23 Coastal Carolina

30 Clemson



BRUCE ELLINGTON

## THE VERDICT

### 2013 PROJECTION: 10-2, 6-2 SEC

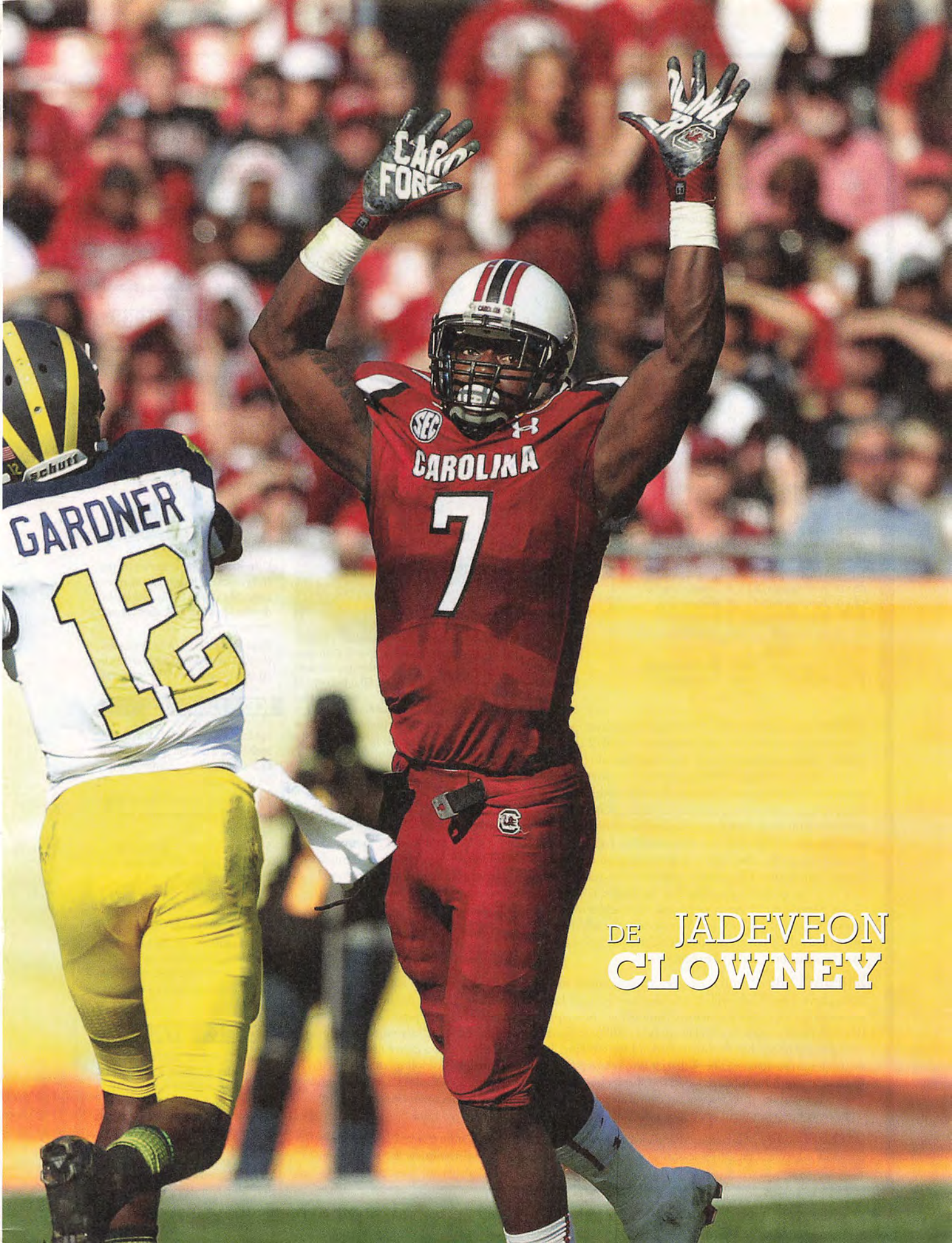
The Gamecocks are well-positioned to once again compete for the SEC title. Quarterback is set with Connor Shaw and Dylan Thompson sharing snaps, but the offense lacks proven playmakers at running back and receiver. The offensive line also needs to show more consistency. Defensive end Jadeveon Clowney will continue to be a force off of the edge, but South Carolina has to rebuild its linebacking corps. After drawing a tough crossover schedule in recent years, the Gamecocks won't play the projected top four teams in the SEC West in 2013. The Sept. 7 matchup at Georgia looms large. Postseason: Chick-fil-A Bowl vs. Florida State

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Tim Clark/Athlon Sports





DE JADEVEON  
**CLOWNEY**



**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** Every starter returns except center T.J. Johnson, and that's a big loss because he started every game for the past three seasons. His replacement, redshirt freshman Cody Waldrop, struggled with snapping at times in the spring. That was not surprising, because Waldrop has played almost exclusively at guard since his freshman year of high school — the last time he was a full-time center. A troubling stat for the Gamecocks: They ranked No. 110 nationally with 38 sacks allowed last year, despite throwing the ball just 28.1 times per game, No. 99 nationally. Right tackle Brandon Shell, a sophomore, needs to continue growing as a pass-blocker. He looks like a tackle destined for the NFL — with a 6'6", 321-pound body — but he didn't pass-block much until coming to college. He says his footwork in that area has been an adjustment.

## DEPTH CHART

### OFFENSE (6)

WR	1	Damiere Byrd (Jr.)	4	Shaq Roland (So.)
WR	23	Bruce Ellington (Jr.)	80	K.J. Brent (So.)
WR	3	Nick Jones (Jr.)	8	Shamier Jeffery (So.)
LT	53	Corey Robinson (Jr.)	76	Mike Matulis (Jr.)
LG	50	A.J. Cann (Jr.)	65	Brock Stadnik (Fr.)
C	51	Cody Waldrop (Fr.)	54	Clayton Stadnik (Fr.)
RG	67	Ronald Patrick (Sr.)	75	Will Sport (So.)
RT	71	Brandon Shell (So.)	78	Cody Gibson (Jr.)
TE	81	Rory Anderson (Jr.)	89	Jerrell Adams (So.)
QB	14	Connor Shaw (Sr.)	17	Dylan Thompson (Jr.)
RB	28	Mike Davis (So.)	22	Brandon Wilds (So.)

### DEFENSE (5)

DE	7	Jadeveon Clowney (Jr.)	8	Darius English (Fr.)
DT	99	Kelcy Quarles (Jr.)	52	Phillip Dukes (So.)
DT	97	J.T. Surratt (Jr.)	92	Gerald Dixon Jr. (So.)
DE	90	Chaz Sutton (Sr.)	44	Gerald Dixon (So.)
OLB	18	Cedrick Cooper (So.)	11	T.J. Holloman (Fr.)
MLB	22	Kaiwan Lewis (So.)	11	T.J. Holloman (Fr.)
OLB	9	Sharrod Golightly (Jr.)	42	Jordan Diggs (Fr.)
CB	27	Victor Hampton (Jr.)	4	Ahmad Christian (So.)
CB	15	Jimmy Legree (Sr.)	10	Ronnie Martin (Jr.)
SS	12	Brisen Williams (Jr.)	6	Chris Moody (Fr.)
FS	20	T.J. Gurley (So.)	25	Kadetrix Marcus (Jr.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	19	Landon Ard (So.)	KR	23	Bruce Ellington (Jr.)
P	13	Tyler Hull (Jr.)	PR	27	Victor Hampton (Jr.)



**60.5**

South Carolina has run the ball on 60.5 percent of its offensive

snaps over the past two seasons, a departure from coach Steve Spurrier's pass-happy offenses that he won with at Florida.

**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** Quite simply, no player in college football left a more indelible final impression in 2012 than Clowney, whose helmet-popping hit on Michigan running back Vincent Smith in the Outback Bowl continued to wow everybody for months after it happened. But that hit really didn't demonstrate the biggest part of Clowney's sophomore season. Something far less sexy did. In South Carolina's win over Georgia, Clowney noticed that the Gamecocks' home crowd roared so loudly that Bulldogs quarterback Aaron Murray was tapping his center's hip every time he wanted the ball snapped, because a snap count would go unheard. Clowney used this observation to get a jump on the snap. As a freshman, Clowney lagged so much in the mental part of the game — as most first-year players do — that his teammates had to do tell him where to go before the snap. But the results, however they have come — with help or without it — are impressive: 21 career sacks and 35.5 tackles for a loss. If offensive lines slide their protections toward Clowney, senior Chaz Sutton can take advantage. He is starting for the first time, but he played extensively last season in South Carolina's rabbits package (four ends on the field at once in pass-rushing situations) and had five sacks.

**LINEBACKERS** This is the biggest question mark for the Gamecocks, who lost all three of their linebackers. They likely will start sophomore Kaiwan Lewis at the Mike spot — the linebacker responsible for aligning the defensive front before the snap. They will enter August practices with battles at the two outside linebacker spots — Will and Spur. Junior Sharrod Golightly emerged from spring ahead of redshirt freshman Jordan Diggs at Spur, because Golightly has a better understanding of the entire defense. The Will spot is tough to call. Redshirt freshman T.J. Holloman impressed the coaches with his intelligence in the spring, but they also like sophomore Cedrick Cooper, who missed the spring while recovering from knee surgery. The competition between Holloman and Cooper will be a highlight of August practices.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** Cornerback Victor Hampton is one of South Carolina's most talented players. And if he has a big 2013 season as a junior, he could cash in for NFL money, just as Stephon

## TEAM INFORMATION

### HEAD COACH

Steve Spurrier

### RECORD AT SCHOOL

66-37 (8 years)

### CAREER RECORD

208-77-2 (23 years)

### OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Steve Spurrier

### DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Lorenzo Ward

### LOCATION

Columbia, SC

### STADIUM

Williams-Brice Stadium (80,250)

## KEY GAMECOCKS

**Connor Shaw, QB** He has been South Carolina's starter since Stephen Garcia was kicked off the team midway through 2011. Likely to share snaps with Dylan Thompson.

**Jadeveon Clowney, DE** The college football world has one more season to enjoy him before he cashes in as the likely No. 1 pick in the 2014 NFL Draft.

**Bruce Ellington, WR** Two-sport star blossomed into a complete college receiver in 2012 after struggling with the position at times in 2011.

**Victor Hampton, CB** Possesses the type of physical skills to be an elite boundary corner, like Stephon Gilmore was for the Gamecocks, as long as he stays focused mentally.

**Dylan Thompson, QB** A lightly recruited player, he proved himself plenty capable in big spots last year when Shaw was injured.

## KEY LOSSES

**Ace Sanders, WR** Had 914 receiving yards over the past two seasons, but will be missed more for his contributions in the return game.

**T.J. Johnson, C** Started the past three seasons at center after moving from right guard.

**Shaq Wilson, LB** A sharp three-year starter who anchored the defensive front from the Mike linebacker spot.

**D.J. Swearinger, FS** South Carolina's most vocal leader and hardest hitter; his energy will not be easily replaced.

**Marcus Lattimore, RB** The heart and soul of the Gamecocks for the past three seasons, he had a school-record 38 rushing touchdowns in just 30 career games played.

## RISING STAR

**Mike Davis** got 28 of his 52 carries last season in the four games after Marcus Lattimore was knocked out with a serious right knee injury. Davis has a prodigious combination of power and speed, and does not lack confidence. He got something of an early jump on learning about college football's grind; his older brother, James, played at Clemson from 2005-08.





# 2013 SOUTH CAROLINA ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
16 Hails, Austin	6-2/227	So.	Collinsville, IL
6 Mitch, Connor	6-3/219	Fr.	Raleigh, NC
5 Nosovitch, Brendan	6-1/223	Fr.	Allentown, PA
15 Orth, Perry	6-1/214	Fr.	Ponte Vedra, FL
14 Shaw, Connor	6-1/204	Sr.	Flowery Branch, GA
17 Thompson, Dylan	6-3/212	Jr.	Boiling Springs, SC

RUNNING BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
7 Carson, Shon	5-8/219	So.	Scranton, SC
28 Davis, Mike	5-9/215	So.	Lithonia, GA
31 Diaz, Jordan	6-1/243	Jr.	Hamilton, NJ
43 Gist, Garrison	5-10/245	So.	Rock Hill, SC
41 McLaurin, Connor	6-0/237	Jr.	Raleigh, NC
49 Potter, Devin	5-10/203	Fr.	Granite Falls, NC
24 Salley, Kendric	5-9/215	Fr.	Williston, SC
45 Sutherland, Ty	5-10/240	So.	Pendleton, SC
22 Wilds, Brandon	6-2/218	So.	Blythewood, SC

RECEIVERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
84 Bradshaw, Tevin	5-7/149	So.	Moncks Corner, SC
80 Brent, K.J.	6-4/185	So.	Waxhaw, NC
1 Byrd, Damiere	5-9/168	Jr.	Sicklerville, NJ
18 Duckett, Dwayne	6-0/172	Fr.	Columbia, SC
23 Ellington, Bruce	5-9/197	Jr.	Moncks Corner, SC
12 Fuller, Jody	5-11/211	Fr.	Indian Trail, NC
82 Harvey, Matthew	6-8/225	So.	Rock Hill, SC
83 Heard, Carlton	6-0/186	So.	Athens, GA
8 Jeffery, Shamier	6-1/204	So.	St. Matthews, SC
3 Jones, Nick	5-7/171	Jr.	Moore, SC
4 Roland, Shaq	6-1/182	So.	Lexington, SC
9 Smith, Kwinton	6-4/206	Fr.	Hamer, SC
85 Whitehurst, Kane	5-11/170	So.	Duluth, GA
86 Wilkins, David	6-1/179	Sr.	Cowpens, SC

TIGHT ENDS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
89 Adams, Jerrell	6-6/224	So.	Pinewood, SC
81 Anderson, Rory	6-5/218	Jr.	Powder Springs, GA
35 Homad, Jeff	6-2/224	Jr.	Hilton Head Island, SC
88 Owens, Drew	6-6/241	So.	Charlotte, NC

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
50 Cann, A.J.	6-4/310	Jr.	Bamberg, SC
78 Gibson, Cody	6-7/284	Jr.	Tallahassee, FL
76 Matulis, Mike	6-5/264	Jr.	Boynton Beach, FL
60 Park, D.J.	6-4/335	Fr.	Dillon, SC
67 Patrick, Ronald	6-2/315	Sr.	Cocoa, FL
53 Robinson, Corey	6-8/338	Jr.	Havelock, NC
71 Shell, Brandon	6-6/321	So.	Goose Creek, SC
75 Sport, Will	6-5/289	So.	Milton, FL
65 Stadnik, Brock	6-5/291	Fr.	Greensboro, NC
54 Stadnik, Clayton	6-3/283	Fr.	Greensboro, NC
51 Waldrop, Cody	6-2/312	Fr.	Seffner, FL
74 Zandi, Mason	6-9/287	Fr.	Irmo, SC

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
7 Clowney, Jadeveon	6-6/272	Jr.	Rock Hill, SC
92 Dixon Jr., Gerald	6-3/318	So.	Rock Hill, SC
44 Dixon, Gerald	6-2/275	So.	Rock Hill, SC
52 Dukes, Phillip	6-3/315	So.	Manning, SC
8 English, Darius	6-6/225	Fr.	Powder Springs, GA
93 Green, Deon	6-4/283	So.	Windermere, FL
96 Hall, Jamal	6-2/240	Sr.	Ladson, SC
34 Harris, Mason	6-3/215	So.	Fort Oglethorpe, GA
94 Holmes, Ashton	6-3/259	Sr.	Spartanburg, SC
99 Quarles, Kelcy	6-4/293	Jr.	Hodges, SC
97 Surratt, J.T.	6-2/311	Jr.	Winston-Salem, NC
90 Sutton, Chaz	6-5/256	Sr.	Savannah, GA
95 Washington, Michael	6-3/249	So.	Allendale, SC

LINEBACKERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
18 Cooper, Cedrick	6-2/215	So.	Lithonia, GA
42 Diggs, Jordan	6-0/197	Fr.	Fort Myers, FL
9 Golightly, Sharrod	5-10/179	Jr.	Decatur, GA
11 Holloman, T.J.	6-2/215	Fr.	Stone Mountain, GA
43 King, James	6-0/235	So.	Goose Creek, SC
22 Lewis, Kaiwan	6-0/221	So.	Mays Landing, NJ
41 Morini, Kyle	5-10/220	Jr.	Lexington, SC
5 Rainey, Kelvin	6-3/228	Fr.	Yulee, FL
21 Roberts, Marquis	6-1/215	So.	Powder Springs, GA
46 Sims, Darian	6-2/254	So.	Goose Creek, SC

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
4 Christian, Ahmad	5-10/189	So.	Jacksonville, FL
39 Dukes, Jessie	5-11/171	Jr.	Blackville, SC
40 Dukes, Jevonn	6-1/200	So.	Blackville, SC
17 Elder, Chaz	6-2/194	Fr.	Union City, GA
19 Fleetwood, Kyle	5-11/214	Fr.	Stone Mountain, GA
20 Gurley, T.J.	5-10/183	So.	Cairo, GA
27 Hampton, Victor	5-10/197	Jr.	Darlington, SC
15 Legree, Jimmy	6-0/185	Sr.	Beaufort, SC
25 Marcus, Kadetrix	6-1/185	Jr.	Stone Mountain, GA
10 Martin, Ronnie	5-11/173	Jr.	Spartanburg, SC
1 McWilliams, Rico	5-11/178	Fr.	Hampton, GA
6 Moody, Chris	6-1/210	Fr.	McDonough, GA
30 Rhodes, Sidney	5-10/167	Jr.	Easley, SC
49 Shank, Garrett	6-0/190	Fr.	Marietta, GA
12 Williams, Brison	5-11/205	Jr.	Warner Robins, GA

SPECIALISTS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
19 Ard, Landon (K)	5-9/189	So.	Rock Hill, SC
58 Culbertson, Ryland (LS)	6-4/268	Jr.	Laurens, SC
13 Fish, Patrick (P)	6-0/194	Jr.	Shelby, NC
59 Harley, Coleman (LS)	6-1/268	So.	Aiken, SC
13 Hull, Tyler (P)	6-2/212	Jr.	Mount Airy, NC
45 Joyner, Jake (K)	5-11/186	Fr.	Buford, GA
40 Komornik, Andrew (P)	6-5/235	Fr.	Fort Mill, SC
16 St. Germain, Nick (K)	5-9/180	Fr.	Powder Springs, GA

## 2012 RESULTS

RECORD: 11-2, 6-2 (SEC)

Aug. 30	at Vanderbilt	W	17-13
Sept. 8	East Carolina	W	48-10
Sept. 15	UAB	W	49-6
Sept. 22	Missouri	W	31-10
Sept. 29	at Kentucky	W	38-17
Oct. 6	Georgia	W	35-7
Oct. 13	at LSU	L	21-23
Oct. 20	at Florida	L	11-44
Oct. 27	Tennessee	W	38-35
Nov. 10	Arkansas	W	38-20
Nov. 17	Wofford	W	24-7
Nov. 24	at Clemson	W	27-17
Jan. 1	vs. Michigan #	W	33-28

#Outback Bowl



MIKE DAVIS

## 2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Connor Shaw	228	154	1,956	17	7
Dylan Thompson	127	66	1,027	10	2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Marcus Lattimore	143	662	4.6	11
Connor Shaw	131	435	3.3	3
Kenny Miles	104	359	3.5	2
Mike Davis	52	275	5.3	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Ace Sanders	45	531	11.8	9
Bruce Ellington	40	600	15.0	7
Marcus Lattimore	26	173	6.7	0
Justice Cunningham	23	324	14.1	0

**KICKING:** Adam Yates, 11-17 FGs, 49-49 XPs,

82 points

**TACKLES:** Shaq Wilson, 86; D.J. Swearingen, 79

**SACKS:** Jadeveon Clowney, 13

**INTERCEPTIONS:** Jimmy Legree, 3;

DeVonte Holloman, 3

Returning Players in Bold

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	31.5 ppg	5	44
Rushing	138.5 ypg	13	89
Passing	238.1 ypg	6	57
Total	376.5 ypg	9	82

Defense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	18.2 ppg	4	13
Rushing	120.7 ypg	4	17
Passing	194.9 ypg	5	21
Total	315.5 ypg	4	11

TO Margin	Per Game	SEC	National
+4	+0.31	6	43

## SCOUTING THE GAMECOCKS

### OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP SOUTH CAROLINA

"I like quarterback Connor Shaw. He's underrated. All he does is win. And he is fiercely tough. ... Dylan Thompson struggled early but played well down the stretch. Had some big games. Won at Clemson. They both played well in the bowl game. Connor probably makes more plays with his feet and has that grittiness to him that made them really good early in the year. Thompson may be the more talented of the two, and clearly South Carolina knows that their defense is legit, and if they don't turn the ball over and make mistakes, they will win a lot of games. The person who doesn't make mistakes and puts them in the best positions will be the guy. ... They should be able to absorb the loss of Marcus Lattimore. Early in the 2011, he was a workhorse for them, but as he got hurt they became more reliant on Connor Shaw and the perimeter runs. Mike Davis is a very good back. They have some good young players that will do a good job for them. ... Ace Sanders was a great return guy and a good slot receiver. I always thought he was dangerous, but I didn't look at him and say he was an elite wide receiver in the league. You thought about him more in reverses and things like that, not necessarily as a big-league receiver. The biggest catch of his career came on the last play, against Michigan. He's a loss, but they have established some really solid depth at receiver."



Gilmore did after the 2011 season. Hampton knows this, and he also knows he has to continue to demonstrate maturity, after off-field disciplinary issues pockmarked the early part of his career. There's less doubt about his on-field ability. "If Vic was a sports car, he'd go from zero to 60 faster than any other sports car out there," says defensive backs coach Grady Brown. "He gets to his top speed fast." Hampton started last year for the first time and had one interception and six pass breakups. The heart of South Carolina's secondary last year was departed free safety D.J. Swearingin, the Gamecocks' most vocal leader and a ferocious hitter. Defensive coordinator Lorenzo Ward liked what he saw from junior Kadetrix Marcus enough in the spring that Ward isn't just handing the job to sophomore T.J. Gurley in August. Gurley missed the spring after having knee surgery. Last season, he played well in Swearingin's place when Swearingin was suspended for a helmet-to-helmet hit.

**SPECIALISTS** Sanders was a very good receiver, but he was an even better punt returner. He ranked fourth nationally last season with 15.3 yards per return and brought two back for touchdowns. So who takes his place? Hampton would seem to be the leading candidate, but the coaches want to cast a wide net in their search. Ellington is one of the country's most experienced kickoff returners. He returned 18 last season and 20 in 2011. Placekicker Adam Yates is gone, and sophomore Landon Ard is in line to replace him, but field goals haven't been a very important part of South Carolina's offensive repertoire over the past two seasons. Jay Wooten made 7-of-11 in 2011, and Yates made 11-of-17 last year.

## OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

**WHAT'S UP DOC?** Shortly after linebacker T.J. Holloman arrived at South Carolina last summer, he got a nickname: Doc. It came from free safety D.J. Swearingin, because he noticed how quickly Holloman was catching on. Holloman's smarts are one reason why he will contend for a starting spot in August. But despite his nickname, don't expect him to pursue a future in medicine. "I'm more of a math guy," he says.

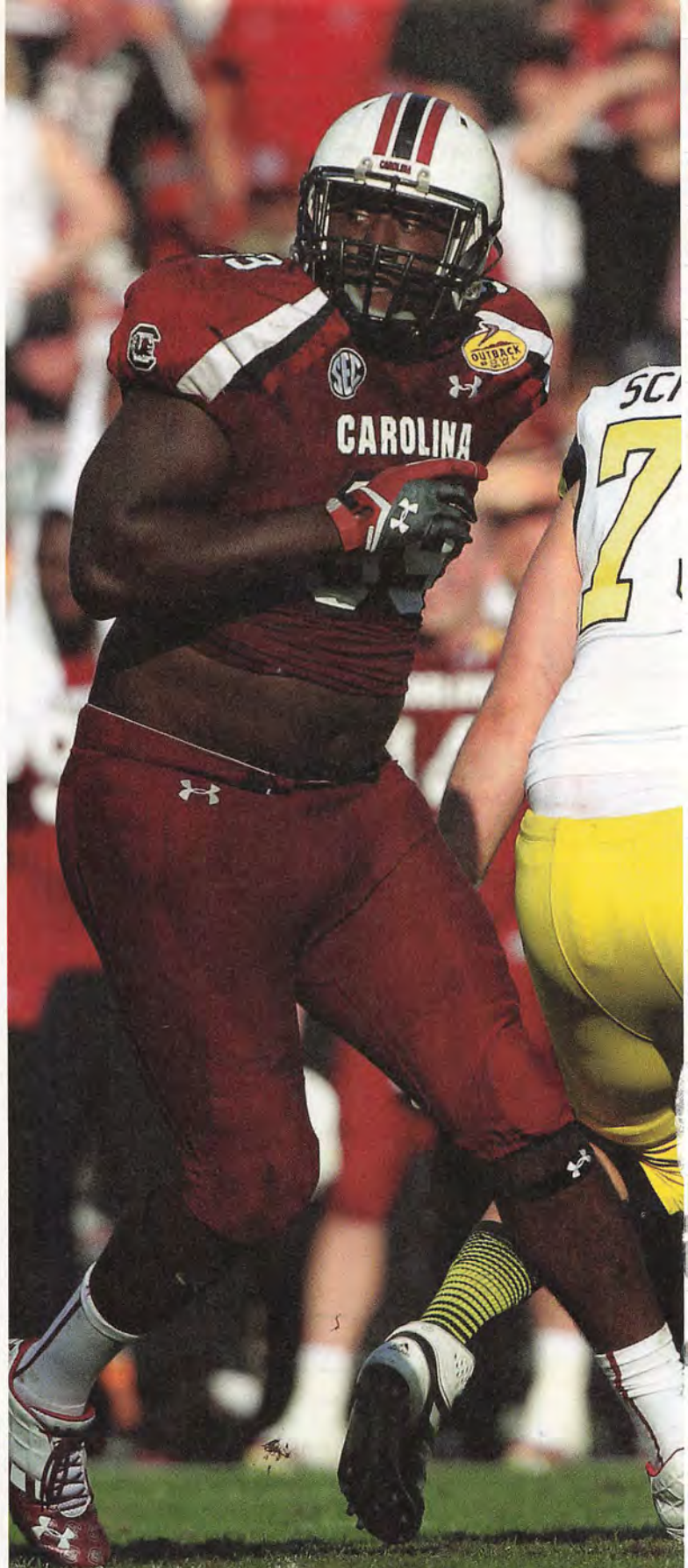
**NICE RING POPS** Defensive tackle Kelcy Quarles, entering his second year as a starter, likes to tease his dad, Buddy, who played offensive line for the Gamecocks from 1984-87. In 2011 and 2012, South Carolina's 11-2 records surpassed the 1984 team's 10-2 as the best in school history. "After we broke the record [for most wins in a season], I took the [2011 bowl] ring home and I put it beside his little ring," Kelcy says. "And I told him, 'You can look at it every day you wake up.'"

**THRIFTY END** All-America defensive end Jadeveon Clowney was quiet during media interviews when he got to South Carolina, but he has begun to show his goofier side. As it turns out, he has a reputation for being a cheapskate, which he plans to continue even when he gets NFL money. "Probably if I'll be the No. 1 pick in the draft, I'll still buy fake earrings and tell people they're real," he says. "They're going to believe me anyway because I'm in the NFL."

**RED ZONE TARGET** Shamier Jeffery might not become the receiver that his older brother Alshon was. But Shamier, who had no catches last season as a redshirt freshman, is particularly skilled at catching fade routes in the corner of the end zone, and could be a red zone threat. "That's an easy play for him," says receivers coach Steve Spurrier Jr. "If he had to do that all day long, he'd have 1,000 touchdowns."

**RABBIT TALK** Last year, South Carolina's rabbits package, a third down scheme that puts four defensive ends on the field at once, relied on Chaz Sutton and Aldrick Fordham to play end, while the starting ends, Clowney and Devin Taylor, moved to tackle. This season, the coaches will need to put the rabbits ends, Darius English and Mason Harris, in position to use their speed, because they are smaller than Sutton and Fordham. English is 225 pounds, Harris 215.

**TOUCHDOWN MAKER** Junior tight end Rory Anderson is starting for the first time this season, but he has made the most of his action in his first two years. Three of his eight catches in 2011 went for touchdowns, as did five of his 14 in '12. Of Anderson's eight career touchdown catches, five have come in the red zone.



DT KELCY  
QUARLES



# 2013 SIGNEES

South Carolina hasn't had great offensive line recruiting classes in recent years, but Steve Spurrier hopes this year's group changes that. Of the Gamecocks' eight players who received 4 stars from Rivals, two were offensive tackles — D.J. Park, who enrolled early, and Na'Ty Rodgers, who is from Maryland and plays with a mean streak.

Linebacker was also a big position of need for the Gamecocks because they lost their three starters from last year. They got two 4-star linebackers, including Skai Moore, who picked the Gamecocks on Signing Day. Another linebacker, Larenz Bryant, was South Carolina's highest-rated recruit in this class — No. 112 nationally, according to Rivals, which ranked him the No. 4 inside linebacker. Look for Bryant to contribute at least on special teams this season.

In addition to landing Rodgers, quarterbacks coach G.A. Mangus also headed north for another important recruit — Philadelphia running back David Williams, the No. 21 player at his position according to Rivals. South Carolina's increasing national profile, because of in-state high-profile recruits like Marcus Lattimore and Jadeveon Clowney, could allow the Gamecocks to branch out from their traditional recruiting areas.

Georgia is still an important area for South Carolina's recruiting, and the Gamecocks went into Hoschton, 50 miles northeast of Atlanta, to pick up the No. 7 defensive tackle — Kelsey Griffin, who also had an offer from Georgia. Griffin was another pickup for Mangus, who continues to show why he is one of the staff's best recruiters, along with defensive coordinator Lorenzo Ward.

South Carolina got three defensive ends in this class — Gerald Turner, Devin Washington and Devante Covington — and while none is anywhere close to the type of major recruit that Clowney was two years ago, Covington could grow into a productive player. His 6'4", 220-pound body certainly gives him room to do it, in perhaps a similar way to Devin Taylor, who starred after coming to Columbia as a 3-star end in 2008 who was 6'6" and 225 pounds.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ...

**QB • CONNOR MITCH • RALEIGH, NC**

Because the Gamecocks have a senior (Connor Shaw) and junior (Dylan Thompson) as their top two quarterbacks, they needed to get an elite signal-caller in this class. Spurrier landed a pro-style quarterback out of Raleigh, N.C. — Connor Mitch, who is rated No. 13 at his position by Rivals. Spurrier has yet to coach an elite quarterback at South Carolina. Could Mitch finally be the guy to change that?

Because Mitch enrolled early, he was able to learn the playbook this spring. He isn't exactly pining for high school, though.

"Actually, my two best friends on my football team graduated early, and they're at [North Carolina] right now," Mitch says of twin brothers Justin and Jordan Fieulleteau. "We just talk about the adjustments in general to college."

Mitch says one of his biggest adjustments has been how college defenses disguise coverages before the snap. "There are things we try to teach them: Here's what you can look at to tell you why they're disguising and where it is," says quarterbacks coach G.A. Mangus. "But it still happens so fast and the blitzes are faster and the rotations are faster and the windows are smaller. That's always an adjustment. Until it slows down, it can be an evil adjustment at times."

**LB LARENZ BRYANT** 6-0, 215, CHARLOTTE, NC  
Played in the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas game and in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl following his senior season. Rated the fourth-best player in the state and the fourth-best inside linebacker in the country by Rivals.

**S MOHAMED CAMARA** 6-1, 191, CUMMING, GA  
Rated the 69th-best player in Georgia and the 54th-best outside linebacker in the country by Rivals.

**CB PHAROH COOPER** 5-11, 194, HAVELOCK, NC  
Rated a 4-star prospect and the state's ninth-best player by Rivals. Offensive MVP of the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas game after his senior season.

**DE DEVANTE COVINGTON** 6-4, 220, ROCKINGHAM, NC  
Rated the 17th-best player in the state and the 20th-best weak-side defensive end in the country by 247Sports.

**DT KELSEY GRIFFIN** 6-2, 292, HOSCHTON, GA  
Four-star prospect who was regarded as the 10th-best player in Georgia, the seventh-best defensive tackle in the country and the 120th-best player overall on the Rivals250.

**CB ALI GROVES** 5-10, 184, STONE MOUNTAIN, GA  
The 55th-best cornerback in the country and an All-Southeast Region pick according to PrepStar.

**LB DAVID JOHNSON** 6-1, 268, LITHONIA, GA  
Played in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl following his senior season. The 30th-best player in the state, 29th-best outside linebacker in the country according to Rivals.

**OL BRYCE KING** 6-3, 281, DILLON, SC  
The third-best center in the country according to Rivals, second-best according to PrepStar.

**OL ALAN KNOTT** 6-4, 272, TYRONE, GA  
Played in the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl in Carson, Calif., following his senior season. Regarded as 53rd-best offensive tackle in the country by Rivals.

**CB RONNIE MARTIN** 5-11, 173, SPARTANBURG, SC  
Attended Georgia Military College. Rated the sixth-best junior college cornerback in the nation according to 247Sports.

**QB CONNOR MITCH** 6-3, 219, RALEIGH, NC  
Passed for 12,078 career yards, including 4,661 as a senior. Rated the 13th-best pro-style quarterback in the country by Rivals, and No. 248 on the Rivals250.

**LB SKAI MOORE** 6-2, 205, FT. LAUDERDALE, FL  
A 4-star prospect and the 43rd-best player in the state and the No. 19 outside linebacker in the nation according to Rivals.

**OL D.J. PARK** 6-4, 335, DILLON, SC  
Four-star prospect who was the state's third-best player, the 19th-best offensive tackle in the land and the nation's 220th-best prospect according to Rivals.

**OL NA'TY RODGERS** 6-5, 296, POMFRET, MD  
Considered a 4-star prospect, the seventh-best player in the state and the 20th-best offensive tackle in the country by 247Sports.

**S JASPER SASSER** 6-0, 192, JACKSONVILLE, FL  
Three-star prospect who was ranked as the 59th-best athlete in the nation and 96th on the Florida top 100 by Rivals.

**RB JAMARI SMITH** 5-10, 183, NEPTUNE BEACH, FL  
Three-star prospect, the 43rd-best running back in the nation and ranked 82nd on the Florida top 100 according to Rivals.

**DE GERALD TURNER** 6-2, 256, GOOSE CREEK, SC  
Played in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl. Regarded as the 10th-best player in the state, and the 34th-best inside linebacker in the country by 247Sports.

**OL J.P. VONASHEK** 6-6, 283, KINGSLAND, GA  
A 3-star prospect, the 56th-best player in the state, and the 44th-best offensive tackle in the country by 247Sports.

**LB JONATHAN WALTON** 6-0, 234, DAPHNE, AL  
Considered the No. 20 player in the state of Alabama and the No. 21 inside linebacker in the nation by Rivals.

**DE DEVIN WASHINGTON** 6-3, 225, ORLANDO, FL  
A 4-star prospect, the 48th-best player in the state, and the 14th-best weak-side defensive end in the country according to 247Sports.

**RB DAVID WILLIAMS** 6-1, 200, PHILADELPHIA, PA  
A 4-star recruit, the eighth-best player in the state and the 21st-best running back in the country according to Rivals. Rushed for 1,904 yards with 23 touchdowns as a senior.



Tim Clark/Athlon Sports



# SOUTH CAROLINA'S RISE TO POWER

Elite talent — much of it local — is flowing into Columbia

by Darryl Slater

**S**teve Spurrier was worried. He had just returned from the Outback Bowl after the 2008 season. Spurrier's South Carolina Gamecocks had lost 31–10 to Iowa, their third straight loss, following defeats of 56–6 at Florida, Spurrier's former team, and 31–14 at Clemson, the Gamecocks' heated rival. It was a sour way to end a season that the Gamecocks started 7–3.

Four years into his tenure at South Carolina, Spurrier was 28–22 and 15–17 in the Southeastern Conference, never finishing better than 8–5 overall and 5–3 in the league. But Spurrier's staff had begun to make in-state recruiting progress for the Class of 2009, which included cornerback Stephon Gilmore, who was scheduled to enroll early, in January 2009.

But after a bowl game in which South Carolina "stunk it up," as Spurrier recalled, he said he had a sinking thought on his mind when he returned to Columbia: "Man, I'm hoping somebody didn't get to Gilmore and change his mind because of what we had done in that game."

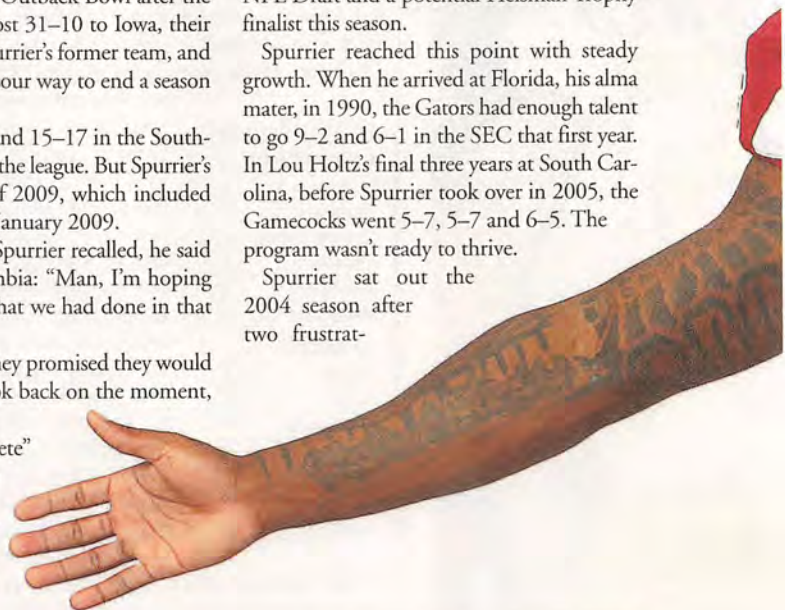
Sure enough, Gilmore and his mother were in Spurrier's office, as they promised they would be. Spurrier and his staff were happy, obviously, but even as they look back on the moment, they didn't know if Gilmore would be a program-changing recruit.

There was no doubting his talent, as the nation's sixth-ranked "athlete" in his class, according to Rivals, and Mr. Football in the state of South Carolina. Gilmore's teammate at South Pointe High in Rock Hill, S.C., DeVonte Holloman, arrived in Columbia in the summer of 2009 as Rivals' 10th-ranked outside linebacker. He and Gilmore provided a tipping point for the Gamecocks.

NFL Draft and a potential Heisman Trophy finalist this season.

Spurrier reached this point with steady growth. When he arrived at Florida, his alma mater, in 1990, the Gators had enough talent to go 9–2 and 6–1 in the SEC that first year. In Lou Holtz's final three years at South Carolina, before Spurrier took over in 2005, the Gamecocks went 5–7, 5–7 and 6–5. The program wasn't ready to thrive.

Spurrier sat out the 2004 season after two frustrat-



**"I really wanted this job because I felt like there was nowhere to go but up, and we had a chance to achieve so many firsts."**

— South Carolina head coach Steve Spurrier

"If we would have lost them, that would have hurt us," says Steve Spurrier Jr., who serves as his father's wide receivers coach and recruiting coordinator. "They're the ones who, when we started recruiting, would get guys around."

The talent — particularly in-state kids — began flowing to South Carolina in the ensuing years, and the wins came with greater frequency than ever before, albeit in a different fashion than Spurrier's Florida teams. The athletic department committed to facilities improvements, an important recruiting chip. Fans began to believe and expect success, and now Spurrier can sit in his office on a spring day and say, with all the confidence that he flashed in the mid-1990s at Florida, "We're a top-10 program now."

After going 7–6 (3–5 SEC) in 2009, with a 1–4 finish, South Carolina was 9–5 (5–3) in 2010 and played in the SEC Championship Game for the first time. Each of the past two seasons, South Carolina went 11–2 and 6–2 — its best overall and league records in school history. It finished in the top 10 for the first time ever in 2011, at No. 9, and bettered that by one spot in 2012. Moreover, South Carolina has four straight wins over Clemson for the second time ever, and first since 1951–54. The Gamecocks have never won five in a row over the Tigers.

Once an SEC doormat — see 1–10 and 0–11 seasons in 1998 and 1999, with no league wins either year — the Gamecocks in 2013 will chase their first conference title, with a defense led by All-America end Jadeveon Clowney, the likely No. 1 overall pick in the 2014

ing years with the Washington Redskins. He wanted back into coaching in 2005 and closely monitored the situation at North Carolina, where John Bunting was on the hot seat. Spurrier was familiar with the area from his days coaching at Duke in the late 1980s.

But North Carolina decided to retain Bunting after the 2004 season, so Spurrier turned his focus to South Carolina, an area he was less familiar with and a program with a minimal history of success. Spurrier still relishes telling the story about how his friends in Florida asked him why he wanted the South Carolina job — after all, they told him, he could never win there.

"I really wanted this job because I felt like there was nowhere to go but up, and we had a chance to achieve so many firsts," Spurrier says. "If (North Carolina) had fired





Local talent, like Jadeveon Clowney, Stephon Gilmore, DeVonte Holloman and Marcus Lattimore (left to right), has elevated USC's national profile.

(Bunting) that year, I don't know what I would have done."

Spurrier and his staff were not familiar with the dynamics of recruiting the state of South Carolina when they arrived in Columbia, and it took some time to adjust. The 2009 class was particularly valuable, as Alshon Jeffery (Rivals' No. 13 receiver) came from nearby St. Matthews to join Holloman and Gilmore, who was the first of four consecutive South Carolina Mr. Footballs to choose the Gamecocks. Clowney, the No. 1 overall recruit in 2011, attended the same high school as Holloman and Gilmore.

"I think there was a little bit of a disconnect between the high school coaches in the

tant. His influence around here was just terrific. He was always on time. He was one of the hardest workers in the weight room and in the offseason conditioning."

Lattimore put up impressive numbers, including a school-record 38 career rushing touchdowns, but South Carolina has won the past two years with defense. The Gamecocks ranked No. 3 nationally in yards allowed per game in 2011 and No. 11 in 2012 — improvements from No. 46 in 2010.

Spurrier has embraced the notion that the foundation to winning the modern SEC is a power running game and stout defense. While he would still love for South Carolina to throw the ball more, like his Florida teams did, it is the winning, above all else, that keeps him coaching at age 68.

He isn't setting any timetables for retirement, and he believes South Carolina's progress is sustainable, because of things like a \$13 million academic center for athletes that opened in 2010 and a \$6.5 million video board at



state of South Carolina and the coaches at the University of South Carolina," says Virginia Tech running backs coach Shane Beamer, who worked at South Carolina from 2007-10 and was recruiting coordinator in his final two seasons in Columbia. "So we just went out of our way to try and reach out to those guys and be very welcoming, go out of our way to get them on our campus. I think the biggest thing was just getting to know people."

Though Clowney's decision was huge, perhaps South Carolina's most important recruit ever, and another South Carolina Mr. Football, arrived in 2010 — Marcus Lattimore, the nation's No. 1 running back and No. 10 overall recruit.

"When Clowney came down on a (recruiting) visit, Marcus sat with him at a basketball game," Spurrier says. "Marcus was one of our best recruiters, definitely. Marcus, I think as a player, he's the most impor-

Williams-Brice Stadium that debuted last season. Those are major factors in recruiting.

"You've got to do that, but it was the first time we clearly made it an absolute issue: This is what we have to do to compete at the highest level," Spurrier Jr. says. "And we started doing it. That made a clear difference."

As Spurrier Jr. searches for the next Gilmore, Holloman, Jeffery, Lattimore or even Clowney, he can be more selective.

"Three years ago, we offered 200 guys," he says. "Now we're offering 30, 40, 50. We know we can offer a smaller pool of people. We can offer that top group and know we're going to get a decent number of them."

South Carolina offered scholarships to two rising in-state sophomores when they were ninth graders — another sign of how South Carolina's staff has begun to master in-state recruiting. "We've watched them for two years," Spurrier Jr. says of the sophomores. "We know who our schools are, who the players are. That certainly makes a difference."



# T TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

NATIONAL FORECAST: 46 // SEC EAST PREDICTION: 5

**B**utch Jones had only been on the job for a few minutes when he whipped out a cell phone and started making calls. He called trustees, boosters, former players, current players, members of the media — anyone to whom he could sell his program. The goodwill campaign created a wave of enthusiasm from fans eager for a leader to stop a five-year slide that has seen the once-mighty Vols fall to the bottom of the league. Fans embraced Jones' Twitter slogans — #RiseToTheTop T-shirts were a hot seller at the Orange & White game — and sold out his speaking events.

But will that enthusiasm be enough to withstand what is likely to be a rough debut season — and perhaps an equally tough Year 2 — as Jones and his staff try to upgrade the team's talent to SEC levels? Honey moons are brief in SEC football, but if any coach deserves one, it's Jones. The Vols face a brutal schedule, including back-to-back road games at Oregon and Florida. And that's just in September.

For the Vols to exceed expectations and reach a bowl in 2013, Jones will need to fix the league's worst defense and develop offensive playmakers at positions where they are scarce or nonexistent. If that happens, expect the love for Jones in East Tennessee to grow.

"I pray every day I'm going to be here forever," Jones said during a post-Signing Day tour of the state. "You guys may get tired of me in about 30 years."

**QUARTERBACKS** Gen. Robert Neyland's Maxims of Football are frequent themes at Tennessee practices, and no maxim gets more attention than No. 1 — "The team that makes the fewest mistakes will win." That may explain why junior Justin Worley is likely to win the starting job. In an offense hamstrung by poor depth at receiver this spring, Worley made the best decisions at the line of scrimmage and made the fewest mental mistakes. Redshirt freshman Nathan Peterman, who many believe is a better fit for offensive coordinator Mike Bajakian's offense, isn't out of the race and could make a late push in August, but he needs to assure coaches he can think fast enough to keep up with an offense that strives to move at lightning speed. Worley's edge comes largely from experience. Although he was a backup to Tyler Bray in 2012, he has played in real games. Peterman spent most of last season on the scout team. Freshmen Joshua Dobbs and Riley Ferguson will get at least a perfunctory chance to win the job when they practice for the first time in August, but it's hard to imagine a first-year player moving up the ladder so quickly. But if the Vols struggle, either freshman could be an option later in the season.

**RUNNING BACKS** If you see Rajion Neal walking around campus in bubble wrap, it's for good reason. Although UT has loaded up on elite running backs for the 2014 signing class, current depth is precariously thin, and the Vols desperately need Neal to stay healthy. If all goes well, Neal and Marlin Lane will split time in the backfield, much as they did a year ago. But Lane was sidelined by disciplinary issues in the spring, and coaches had to start considering the possibility of an offense without Lane. The outlook was grim. Beyond the two veterans, only redshirt freshman Alden Hill is seen as a reasonable candidate to get snaps. Jabo Lee, who was a last-minute addition to the 2013 class, will likely play immediately if he can qualify academically. With a new quarterback and a new cast of receivers, the Vols will rely more heavily on the run game than they did a year ago. Coaches need Neal and Lane to answer the challenge.

**RECEIVERS** When Justin Hunter and Cordarrelle Patterson were drafted in April, coaches hoped it would call attention to UT's heritage as "Wide Receiver U" — a heritage that they're urging recruits to recapture. That might offer little consolation in 2013. The receiving corps is perhaps the least experienced, least talented group on the team — and the most likely to throw a wrench in Jones' plans to run the up-tempo, pass-heavy offense he favored at Cincinnati. Freshman MarQuez North was Jones' biggest late haul in the 2013 class, and North will be given every opportunity to play — and

## 2013 SCHEDULE

### AUGUST

31 Austin Peay

### SEPTEMBER

7 Western Kentucky

14 at Oregon

21 at Florida

28 South Alabama

### OCTOBER

5 Georgia

19 South Carolina

26 at Alabama

### NOVEMBER

2 at Missouri

9 Auburn

23 Vanderbilt

30 at Kentucky



BYRON MOORE

## THE VERDICT

### 2013 PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-5 SEC

The Volunteers are coming off one of the worst three-year stretches in school history, and new coach Butch Jones will need time to rebuild the program. The offense has significant holes to fill, as quarterback Tyler Bray and receivers Justin Hunter and Cordarrelle Patterson left early for the NFL. The offensive line, with four returning starters, should be among the best in the league, but the new quarterback (likely Justin Worley) will be throwing to some inexperienced targets. Seven starters return from the SEC's worst defense in 2012. That is a major areas of concern. Getting to a bowl game would be a step in the right direction for Tennessee. Postseason: Liberty Bowl vs. Tulsa

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Tim Clark/Athlon Sports



LB A.J.  
**JOHNSON**





maybe even start — from Day 1. Redshirt freshman Jason Croom had a solid spring and might be the returning player with the highest ceiling, even though he has yet to catch a college pass. Converted running back Devrin Young and special teams ace Alton “Pig” Howard could provide a spark out of the slot, but they’re probably too small to be go-to receivers. Although he received less attention than Hunter and Patterson, the loss of tight end Mychal Rivera will also sting. UT has no replacement with his athleticism and pass-catching ability, although Brendan Downs and junior college newcomer Woody Quinn will get the first shot.

**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** On paper, Tennessee has one of the best offensive lines in the league. But unlike a year ago, when the offense put up huge numbers powered by star skill players, the line

## DEPTH CHART

### OFFENSE (5)

WR 18	Jason Croom (Fr.)	MarQuez North (Fr.)
WR 19	Devrin Young (Jr.)	2 Pig Howard (So.)
WR 87	Jacob Carter (Jr.)	83 Cody Blanc (So.)
LT 74	Antonio Richardson (Jr.)	68 Marcus Jackson (Jr.)
LG 78	Alex Bullard (Sr.)	68 Marcus Jackson (Jr.)
C 64	James Stone (Sr.)	57 Mack Crowder (So.)
RG 72	Zach Fulton (Sr.)	77 Kyler Kerbyson (So.)
RT 70	Ja’Wuan James (Sr.)	66 Marques Pair (Jr.)
TE 85	Brendan Downs (Jr.)	Woody Quinn (Jr.)
QB 14	Justin Worley (Jr.)	12 Nathan Peterman (Fr.)
RB 20	Rajion Neal (Sr.)	15 Martin Lane (Jr.)

### DEFENSE (7)

DE 58	Marlon Walls (Sr.)	80 Corey Miller (Sr.)
DT 98	Daniel McCullers (Sr.)	96 Trevarris Saulsberry (So.)
DT 97	Daniel Hood (Sr.)	44 Mo Couch (Sr.)
DE 55	Jacques Smith (Sr.)	54 Jordan Williams (Jr.)
LB 41	Dontavis Sapp (Sr.)	17 Brent Brewer (Sr.)
LB 45	A.J. Johnson (Jr.)	52 Christian Harris (So.)
LB 56	Curt Maggitt (Jr.)	46 Channing Fugate (Sr.)
CB 27	Justin Coleman (Jr.)	35 Jaron Toney (Jr.)
CB 21	Riyahd Jones (Jr.)	9 Daniel Gray (So.)
S 3	Byron Moore (Sr.)	33 LaDarrell McNeil (So.)
S 37	Brian Randolph (So.)	34 Jalen Reeves-Maybin (Fr.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K 1	Michael Palardy (Sr.)	KR 19	Devrin Young (Jr.)
P 1	Michael Palardy (Sr.)	PR 19	Devrin Young (Jr.)



21

Tennessee has lost 21 games over the last three seasons, the most in any three-year stretch in school history. The previous high, in the pre-Derek Dooley era, was 17.

will be largely on its own in 2013. The starting five — four seniors and junior Antonio Richardson, who many believe could be NFL-bound after this season — is largely set. So new offensive line coach Don Mahoney has focused on cross-training — that is, preparing players to take on different roles if a regular goes down with injury. The line could be the weakest part of the roster in 2014 after as many as five starters depart. But for Jones’ first season, this group will be the backbone of an offense that will need all the help it can get.

**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** With the one-year experiment with the 3-4 defense in the trash bin, the biggest question facing the new coaching staff was where to fit all the team’s various pieces. Is Jacques Smith an end or a linebacker? Where does big Dan McCullers go? Is it better for a younger player to gain weight and move to the line or stay slotted at linebacker? Some of those questions are still being answered, but the Vols can feel reasonably confident about the two-deep they’ve assembled up front. For a defense that was historically bad a year ago, this unit has the opportunity to be surprisingly good. Line coach Steve Stripling has six seniors capable of starting, including fifth-year players Marlon Walls and Daniel Hood. Coaches have pushed the 6’8”, 360-pound McCullers to do more than just take up space inside. They also need to count on him being able to play for than two or three snaps without huffing and puffing.

**LINEBACKERS** A.J. Johnson was the SEC’s leading tackler, and the new coaching staff spent much of spring outlining just how meaningless they considered that distinction to be. Johnson heard the message, vowing to focus on overall production as much as tackles. Coaches moved Brent Brewer from safety to linebacker, hoping to boost the team’s overall speed, and he could tie down one of the starting spots. The final piece of the puzzle will fall into place when Curt Maggitt returns to health, as there’s a chance he could move to defensive end. The final decision may not have to be made until August. There is ample depth at linebacker, including four senior reserves who have played a combined 137 games, but only started eight. Dontavis Sapp has been the standout in that group. Jones has praised him at every opportunity, calling him a “joy to coach.”

## TEAM INFORMATION

### HEAD COACH

Butch Jones

### RECORD AT SCHOOL

First Season

### CAREER RECORD

50-27 (6 years)

### OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Mike Bajakian

### DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

John Jancek

### LOCATION

Knoxville, TN

### STADIUM

Neyland Stadium (102,455)

## KEY VOLS

### Antonio Richardson, LT

This might be Richardson’s final season in orange if the NFL comes calling. Lived up to every expectation during a breakthrough 2012.

**Ja’Wuan James, RT** Mammoth right tackle has started all 37 games since arriving at UT as a 5-star prospect.

**A.J. Johnson, LB** It may be tough to top a season in which he led the league in tackles, but coaches have pushed him to get better in his pre-snap reads and his ability to make plays in space.

**Justin Coleman, CB** Coaches raved about Coleman’s consistency this spring, and he seems poised to put a miserable 2012 in the rearview mirror.

**Michael Palardy, K/P** He may end up handling every special teams duty, and without him the Vols would be in real trouble.

## KEY LOSSES

**Tyler Bray, QB** Bray admitted his legacy at UT would be a dismal win-loss record, but the offense wasn’t to blame for last year’s woes. If he grows up, he’ll be a productive NFL quarterback.

**Justin Hunter, WR** Injuries prevented him from reaching his full potential at UT, but the speedy receiver left on the heels of a team-leading 1,083-yard season.

**Cordarrelle Patterson, WR** Spent only one season at UT, but set a school record for all-purpose yardage (1,858) and could turn a routine play into a touchdown.

**Mychal Rivera, TE** A top college tight end who was tough enough to block and athletic enough to make big plays.

**Dallas Thomas, OL** Absence might not be missed as much because of the Vols’ star-studded line, but has the size, skills and temperament for a long NFL career.

## RISEING STAR

**Jason Croom** is still raw, but the big wide receiver has speed, size and good hands. Croom already shows signs of being a valuable possession receiver. If he adds big-play ability, he could be a star at a young age on an offense that is searching for playmakers.



# T 2013 TENNESSEE ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
13 Ashford, Patrick	6-0/201	So.	Morristown, TN
1 Page, Tyler	6-3/193	Jr.	Candler, NC
12 Peterman, Nathan	6-2/226	Fr.	Fruit Cove, FL
17 Stocstill, Joe	6-2/220	Fr.	Lewisburg, TN
14 Worley, Justin	6-4/213	Jr.	Rock Hill, SC

RUNNING BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
45 Bolen, Austin	5-11/211	Sr.	Knoxville, TN
30 Hill, Alden	6-1/219	Fr.	Alliance, OH
22 Juin, Reggie	5-7/171	Sr.	Conyers, GA
15 Lane, Marlin	5-11/205	Jr.	Daytona Beach, FL
20 Neal, Rajion	5-11/211	Sr.	Fayetteville, GA
29 Smith, Tom	5-11/213	So.	Apopka, FL
24 Summerhill, Deanthonie	5-9/201	Jr.	Tusculum, AL
48 Wedley, Ryeon	5-9/220	Fr.	Humbolt, TN

RECEIVERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
83 Blanc, Cody	6-3/202	So.	Knoxville, TN
7 Bowles, Drae	6-0/202	Fr.	Jackson, TN
87 Carter, Jacob	6-0/180	Jr.	Nashville, TN
9 Cranford, Sam	6-4/189	Fr.	Nashville, TN
18 Croom, Jason	6-5/232	Fr.	Norcross, GA
6 Dallas, Vincent	5-11/187	Jr.	Ellenwood, GA
3 Drummer, Tyler	6-1/172	Sr.	Powell, TN
81 Harris, Paul	6-4/195	Fr.	Accokeek, MD
2 Howard, Pig	5-8/185	So.	Orlando, FL
4 Mackie, Spencer	6-2/200	Jr.	Knoxville, TN
10 Parisi, Brett	6-2/190	So.	Knoxville, TN
80 West, Dylan	6-1/186	Jr.	Oneida, TN
5 Williams, Winston	5-8/180	Fr.	Brentwood, TN
19 Young, Devin	5-8/172	Jr.	Knoxville, TN

TIGHT ENDS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
88 Ayres, Joseph	6-3/273	Sr.	Knoxville, TN
79 Collier, Brock	6-3/268	Jr.	Joelton, TN
85 Downs, Brendan	6-5/254	Jr.	Bristol, TN
40 Ellis, Alex	6-4/222	So.	Del Mar, DE
62 Folger, Charles	6-4/225	Fr.	Augusta, GA
38 King, Justin	6-2/225	So.	Dunwoody, GA
82 Meredith, Justin	6-5/223	Fr.	Anderson, SC
43 Summers, Dakota	6-3/235	Jr.	Camden, TN

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
78 Bullard, Alex	6-2/300	Sr.	Franklin, TN
57 Crowder, Mack	6-2/283	So.	Bristol, TN
72 Fulton, Zach	6-5/324	Sr.	Homewood, IL
65 Gilliam, Jacob	6-4/287	Jr.	Knoxville, TN
68 Jackson, Marcus	6-2/310	Jr.	Vero Beach, FL
70 James, Ja'Wuan	6-6/323	Sr.	Suwanee, GA
77 Kerbyson, Kyler	6-4/320	So.	Knoxville, TN
75 Mobley, Isaac	6-1/320	So.	Knoxville, TN
66 Pair, Marques	6-5/321	Jr.	Sumter, SC
67 Posey, Alan	6-5/321	So.	Athens, GA
74 Richardson, Antonio	6-6/332	Jr.	Nashville, TN
76 Simcox, John	6-2/270	Fr.	Kingsport, TN
64 Stone, James	6-3/300	Sr.	Nashville, TN

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
69 Carson, Allan	6-1/323	So.	Oxford, AL

93 Clark, Gregory	6-2/323	Jr.	Warner Robins, GA
44 Couch, Maurice	6-2/299	Sr.	Orlando, FL
97 Hood, Daniel	6-4/292	Sr.	Knoxville, TN
4 Lewis, LaTroy	6-4/238	Fr.	Akron, OH
98 McCullers, Daniel	6-8/360	Sr.	Raleigh, NC
80 Miller, Corey	6-3/257	Sr.	Wellford, SC
95 O'Brien, Danny	6-2/304	Fr.	Flint, MI
96 Saulsberry, Trevarris	6-4/285	So.	Gainesville, FL
55 Smith, Jacques	6-2/244	Sr.	Ooltewah, TN
58 Walls, Marlon	6-2/285	Sr.	Olive Branch, MS
54 Williams, Jordan	6-5/256	Jr.	Gainesville, FL

LINEBACKERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
17 Brewer, Brent	6-1/214	Sr.	Tyrone, GA
51 Bynum, Kenny	6-1/246	Fr.	Jacksonville, FL
39 Cantwell, Michael	5-11/208	So.	Morristown, TN
40 Crump, Raiques	6-1/218	Sr.	Adamsville, AL
46 Fugate, Channing	6-1/239	Sr.	Jackson, KY
59 Grieco, Gregory	5-10/220	Jr.	Knoxville, TN
52 Harris, Christian	6-1/226	So.	Woodstock, GA
45 Johnson, A.J.	6-2/240	Jr.	Gainesville, GA
48 King, Greg	6-2/239	Sr.	Memphis, TN
56 Maggitt, Curt	6-3/240	Jr.	West Palm Beach, FL
47 Propst, John	6-0/225	Sr.	Hoover, AL
41 Sapp, Dontavis	6-2/224	Sr.	Valdosta, GA
53 Thomas, Justin	6-0/225	Fr.	Richmond, VA
38 Timoshchuk, Nikolay	6-1/235	Fr.	Chattanooga, TN
50 Vereen, Corey	6-2/230	Fr.	Winter Garden, FL

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
30 Arnold, Max	5-11/186	So.	McKenzie, TN
27 Coleman, Justin	5-10/182	Jr.	Brunswick, GA
19 Coombes, Tyler	6-0/195	Jr.	Lebanon, TN
15 Fairman, Tyrin	5-8/180	So.	Monmouth Junction, NJ
24 Gordon, Eric	5-9/190	Sr.	Nashville, TN
9 Gray, Daniel	5-11/170	So.	Lauderdale Lakes, FL
28 Johnson, Lemond	6-1/190	Fr.	Cooper City, FL
21 Jones, Riyahd	6-0/186	Jr.	Columbus, GA
33 McNeil, LaDarrell	6-1/195	So.	Dallas, TX
3 Moore, Byron	6-0/193	Sr.	Carson, CA
13 Oliver, Naz	5-10/179	Sr.	Jersey City, NJ
26 Orta, Gerald	6-0/179	So.	Valdosta, GA
37 Randolph, Brian	6-0/195	So.	Kennesaw, GA
34 Reeves-Maybin, Jalen	6-1/200	Fr.	Clarksville, TN
31 Thomas, Tino	6-0/199	Fr.	Memphis, TN
35 Toney, Jaron	5-10/188	Jr.	Alcoa, TN
7 Williams, Michael F.	5-11/165	Fr.	Laurel, MD
2 Williams, Michael L.	5-10/176	So.	Knoxville, TN

SPECIALISTS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
46 Ault, Ryan (P/K)	5-11/190	Fr.	Brentwood, TN
42 Brodus, Derrick (K/P)	5-11/188	Jr.	Maryville, TN
5 Bullock, George (K)	6-1/198	Fr.	Knoxville, TN
53 Carr, J.R. (LS)	5-10/224	Sr.	Lomita, CA
43 Darr, Matt (P)	6-1/213	Jr.	Bakersfield, CA
59 Giampapa, Matt (LS)	6-0/239	So.	Jackson, TN
57 Henry, Andrew (LS)	6-2/212	So.	Gallatin, TN
1 Palardy, Michael (K/P)	5-11/177	Sr.	Coral Springs, FL

## 2012 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-7, 1-7 (SEC)

Aug. 31	vs. NC State	%	W	35-21
Sept. 8	Georgia State		W	51-13
Sept. 15	Florida		L	20-37
Sept. 22	Akron		W	47-26
Sept. 29	at Georgia		L	44-51
Oct. 13	at Mississippi State		L	31-41
Oct. 20	Alabama		L	13-44
Oct. 27	at South Carolina		L	35-38
Nov. 3	Troy		W	55-48
Nov. 10	Missouri	(ot)	L	48-51
Nov. 17	at Vanderbilt		L	18-41
Nov. 24	Kentucky		W	37-17

%Atlanta



DANIEL MCCULLERS

## 2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Tyler Bray	451	268	3,612	34	12
Justin Worley	23	15	134	0	2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Rajion Neal	156	708	4.5	5
Marlin Lane	120	658	5.5	2
Cordarrelle Patterson	25	308	12.3	3
Devin Young	33	140	4.2	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Justin Hunter	73	1,083	14.8	9
Cordarrelle Patterson	46	778	16.9	5
Mychal Rivera	36	562	15.6	5
Zach Rogers	32	491	15.3	7
Marlin Lane	29	228	7.9	0

**KICKING:** Michael Palardy, 9-12 FGs, 37-40 XPs, 64 points

**TACKLES:** A.J. Johnson, 138; Byron Moore, 86

**SACKS:** Darrington Sentimore, 4

**INTERCEPTIONS:** Byron Moore, 5

Returning Players in Bold

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	36.2 ppg	4	22
Rushing	160.3 ypg	8	61
Passing	315.6 ypg	2	15
Total	475.9 ypg	2	18

Defense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	35.7 ppg	14	104
Rushing	188.8 ypg	13	85
Passing	282.5 ypg	13	111
Total	471.3 ypg	14	107

TO Margin	Per Game	SEC	National
-5	-0.42	12	88

## SCOUTING THE VOLUNTEERS

### OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP TENNESSEE

"They will be an up-tempo, no-huddle spread offense that will play with a lot of enthusiasm. ... Their problems certainly weren't on offense last year. They were on defense. Butch Jones has hired some coaches with some experience in the SEC, like John Jancek and Willie Martinez, who know the league and know the type of player it takes to be successful in this league. ... They have to replace so many key players on offense. That will take some time. ... The offensive line was very good. Losing (offensive line coach) Sam Pittman may hurt more than losing any of the players. He is a really good coach. ... I always respected what Cincinnati did under Jones. They seemed to be a well-coached team. ... They have won two SEC games in two years. That is bizarre. It just shows you how fiercely competitive the SEC is — for a school with those resources to have only two wins in two years. ... Butch Jones is a hit 'em in the face kind of guy who will try to win back the state of Tennessee in recruiting. You sense he has the right energy for the job. ... I'm not sure Derek Dooley was the right guy for the job. That defense last year was record-setting bad. They had a top-five offense nationally, but the defense was so bad it carried the team down. That offense was as good as any team we played."



**DEFENSIVE BACKS** No unit on the Vols' defense was more beleaguered a year ago than the secondary. The enduring image of 2012 is defensive backs trying to chase down ball-carriers from behind — and losing. But if Tennessee wants to improve in 2013, it will have to do so with largely the same cast of characters. That means positive change will have to come through personal growth, better coaching and an improved scheme. New coordinator John Jancek may be less aggressive than a year ago, using more zones to try to mitigate the Vols' lack of speed. Veterans Byron Moore, Brian Randolph and Justin Coleman will anchor the unit. Junior college newcomer Riyahd Jones seems best positioned to win the open starting cornerback job.

**SPECIALISTS** It's hardly an ideal situation, but Tennessee could enter the season with senior Michael Palardy handling kickoffs, punts and field goals. Jones had a stock answer whenever he was asked about the specialists during the spring: "They're a work in progress." The answer was an indication of dissatisfaction but also an acknowledgement that kicking in games is far different than doing so in practice. Palardy shared punting duties with Matt Darr a year ago, and may do so again in 2013. The field goal battle is more crowded. Palardy was fairly solid from inside the 40 during the spring, but the Vols may try other options for long attempts.

## OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

**TWEETING UP A STORM** Butch Jones started using Twitter before most coaches knew what the term meant. When he was coach at Central Michigan, Jones and his staff quickly decided that the new social medium could be a valuable recruiting tool. It was also a cost-effective way of promoting his program at a school where marketing budgets are slim. That's not a problem at UT, but Jones still uses Twitter with the same gusto. What about the old coach? A few weeks after his firing, former coach Derek Dooley started tweeting, too.

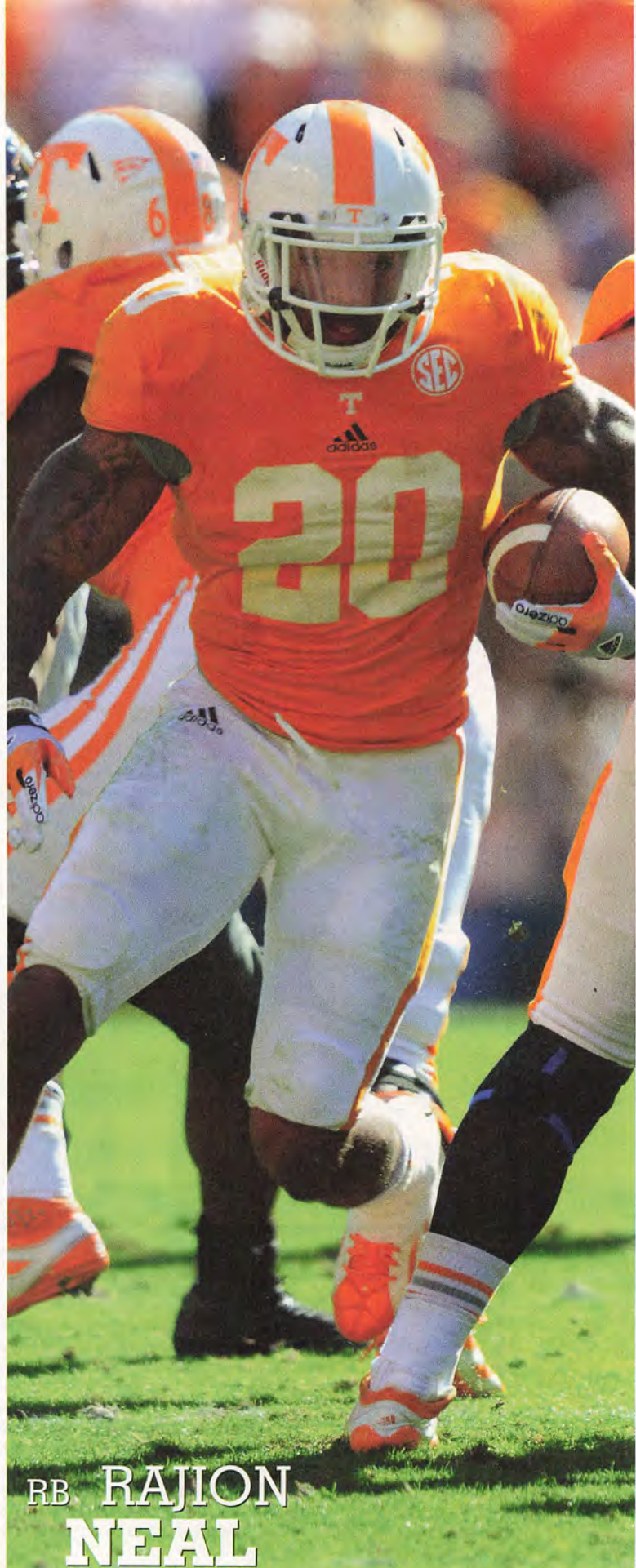
**BUTCH ON THE MIC** Practices at Tennessee are significantly different under Jones. For one, media and visitors can actually watch most of the sessions. It's not a stretch to say Jones has one of the most open viewing policies in the SEC. The practices are notable for their fast pace and their use of music and random sound effects. But more than anything else, it's hard to miss Jones working his wireless mic. He offers commentary that veers from humorous to critical. A constant target of his good-natured ribbing is 360-pound defensive tackle Daniel McCullers. At one practice this spring, as players ran to another station, Jones yelled, "Somebody help McCullers! Put him on your back if you have to!"

**REPLACING A VOL WITH A GATOR** Jay Graham was the only coach retained from Dooley's staff when Jones was hired, and he was the only coach with a University of Tennessee diploma hanging in his office. That's why Graham's decision to leave for Florida State after National Signing Day was such a shock to fans. Within days, however, Jones had hired a familiar face as a replacement. Robert Gillespie, a former running back at Florida who played in some of the most memorable games in the UT-Florida series from 1998-2001, came to Tennessee from West Virginia.

**NEW DIGS** The Vols officially christened a new \$45 million indoor facility this spring that provides more than just a 100-yard turf field. New weight rooms, lockers and modern offices grace the Anderson Training Center, the first step in a long-term plan to upgrade UT's football facilities.

**MORE FANS IN THE STANDS** It wasn't a UT record, but it was close. Excitement over the new coaching staff, a big promotional push and a beautiful sunny afternoon were enough to lure an announced crowd of 61,076 fans to Neyland Stadium for the Orange & White game on April 20. The real test will come this season, however, as UT tries to stop a slide in attendance that left thousands of empty seats in its 102,455-capacity stadium last year.

**ACROSS THE STATE** The day after National Signing Day, Jones and his crew hopped on a private jet and flew from Knoxville to Memphis to Nashville and back, hobnobbing with fans at pep rallies across the state. Memphis and Nashville are especially important markets for the Vols. Jones has promised to make in-state recruiting a top priority, but he must fend off other SEC schools in each of those two large metro areas.



RB **RAJION  
NEAL**



# 2013 SIGNEES

Tennessee's signing class was falling apart when Butch Jones was hired from Cincinnati in early December. Several weeks of nonstop work helped salvage a few victories, but the Vols didn't sign the numbers they had wanted for the class as a whole, or at key positions. That makes 2014 a key barometer for Jones' future success, as the Vols could sign as many as 30 players. The day after National Signing Day, coaches were already focused on 2014.

"We all woke up with the mindset, 'Let's get this 2013 class (signed) and let's roll on the '14 class,'" said recruiting coordinator Zach Azzanni.

Of the 22 players signed in the 2013 class, a handful could offer immediate help. Two new junior college additions — cornerback Riyahd Jones and tight end Woody Quinn — will be counted on to play, and perhaps start, from Day 1.

## BREAKDOWN BY POSITION

Wide Receivers	5
Athletes	3
Defensive Linemen	3
Offensive Linemen	3
Defensive Backs	2
Quarterbacks	2
Tight Ends	2
Linebackers	1
Running Backs	1

## BY STATE

Tennessee	6
Georgia	4
Florida	3
North Carolina	2
Ohio	2
South Carolina	2
California	1
Maryland	1
Texas	1

Receiver Marquez North of Charlotte, N.C., one of the top prospects in the Tar Heel State, has virtually no obstacles to early playing time if he has a strong camp. Landing North was a coup, because the Vols urgently needed a playmaking receiver, and Jones wants to make inroads in North Carolina, where the Vols were once a recruiting force. Defensive lineman Jason Carr of Memphis was a longtime commitment to Derek Dooley's staff who fended off a swarm of late interest (including an Alabama offer) to remain loyal to UT.

Carr and North were generally the highest-rated prospects in the class by every major recruiting service. North's addition helped push the Vols into the top 25.

The big names couldn't obscure the holes in the class, however. Tennessee missed on its top running back targets and had to settle for former East Carolina commitment Jabo Lee late in the process. Lee is the only signee whose academic qualification is a concern. The Vols signed three offensive linemen, but after failing to sign even one in 2012, they needed to add at least two more.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ...

### QB • JOSHUA DOBBS • ALPHARETTA, GA

When quarterback prospect Joshua Dobbs came to campus for a last-minute recruiting visit, Butch Jones spent much of the time talking to him about aerospace engineering. Dobbs and his parents were most interested in what kind of academic opportunities would be available in Knoxville. Jones made his pitch — with an assist from the engineering department — and got Dobbs to switch his commitment from Arizona State to Tennessee on National Signing Day.

"He came in and one of the big things on his checklist was the education," Jones says. "Did it fit his needs? The people in our engineering department did a tremendous job of selling him on what we had and showing him."

Jones and offensive coordinator Mike Bajakian also spent time convincing Dobbs that he'd be a good football fit as well. The 6'3", 190-pounder from Alpharetta, Ga., was a consensus 4-star prospect as a pro-style quarterback by recruiting services. Most believe he'll need to add a bit of weight in college, but Jones has promised that Dobbs and fellow incoming freshman Riley Ferguson will get at least a shot at the job in August. "Our offense is a good fit for his skill set," Jones says of Dobbs.

**TE AJ BRANISEL** 6-4, 225, SOUTH EUCLID, OH  
Rated the No. 29 overall tight end nationally and the No. 46 overall prospect in Ohio by Rivals.

**DL MALIK BROWN** 6-4, 235, PALM BEACH, FL  
Rated a 3-star player by 247Sports, the No. 90 prospect in Florida and No. 26 at his position in the country.

**DL JASON CARR** 6-5, 260, MEMPHIS, TN  
Rated a 4-star prospect by Rivals, as well as the No. 13 overall defensive end, No. 6 overall prospect in Tennessee and No. 170 overall prospect in the nation.

**QB JOSHUA DOBBS** 6-3, 190, ALPHARETTA, GA  
Rated a 4-star player by 247Sports, the No. 10 prospect in Georgia, No. 8 pro-style quarterback and No. 107 in the Top247 national prospects. As a senior, threw for 3,625 yards and 29 touchdowns while rushing for 419 yards and 10 touchdowns.

**QB RILEY FERGUSON** 6-3, 180, MATTHEWS, NC  
Rated a 4-star prospect by ESPN, as well as the No. 16 quarterback, No. 6 prospect in North Carolina and No. 212 overall prospect in the nation.

**ATH MALIK FOREMAN** 5-10, 175, KINGSPORT, TN  
Finished his senior season with 1,270 yards rushing, 586 yards passing and 278 yards receiving. Ranked by 247Sports as the No. 59 athlete nationally and No. 17 overall prospect in Tennessee.

**WR PAUL HARRIS** 6-4, 195, ACCOKEEK, MD  
Rated a 4-star prospect by Rivals as well as the No. 39 wide receiver nationally and No. 7 prospect in Maryland. Had 32 receptions for 732 yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior.

**WR RYAN JENKINS** 5-11, 180, MARIETTA, GA  
A 4-star recruit who was ranked the No. 28 wide receiver nationally by 247Sports, and the No. 31 prospect in Georgia by ESPN.

**WR JOHNATHAN JOHNSON** 5-9, 186, FRIENDSWOODS, TX  
Signed with Air Force out of high school but played at Blinn (Texas) College.

**ATH LEMOND JOHNSON** 6-1, 190, COOPER CITY, FL  
Rated the No. 88 prospect in Florida by Rivals. Played quarterback, wide receiver and safety at Cooper City High School.

**DB RIYAH D JONES** 6-0, 186, COLUMBUS, GA  
Rated the No. 18 junior college cornerback in the 247Composite for the 2013 class. Recorded a 4.49 40-yard dash.

**OL BRETT KENDRICK** 6-6, 312, KNOXVILLE, TN  
Three-star prospect who helped his team to back-to-back TSSAA Class 3A State Championships in his junior and senior seasons.

**RB JABO LEE** 5-10, 180, DILLON, SC  
Rated a 3-star prospect by Rivals, as well as the No. 9 prospect in South Carolina and No. 46 running back in the nation.

**DL JAYLEN MILLER** 6-2, 265, GAFFNEY, SC  
Rated a 4-star prospect by ESPN and the No. 36 overall defensive end as well as the No. 5 overall prospect in South Carolina.

**WR MARQUEZ NORTH** 6-4, 214, CHARLOTTE, NC  
Rated by Rivals as the No. 1 prospect in North Carolina, as well as the No. 2 wide receiver nationally and No. 37 overall prospect. Scored 25 total touchdowns as a high school senior.

**TE WOODY QUINN** 6-6, 260, DANA POINT, CA  
Spent 2012 season at Santa Ana College in California. In one season with the Dons, caught 15 passes for 252 yards and a touchdown.

**ATH JALEN REEVES-MAYBIN** 6-1, 200, CLARKSVILLE, TN  
Rated a 4-star prospect by Rivals, Scout and 247Sports, as well as the No. 5 prospect in Tennessee by 247Sports. Gained more than 2,000 yards rushing in '12.

**OL AUSTIN SANDERS** 6-5, 284, CLEVELAND, TN  
Rated a 4-star prospect by ESPN and Rivals and the No. 8 prospect in Tennessee. Participated in the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl.

**WR JOSH SMITH** 6-1, 180, KNOXVILLE, TN  
Local prospect racked up more than 4,000 receiving yards along with 52 receiving touchdowns in prep career. Rated the No. 16 prospect in Tennessee by 247Sports.

**DB CAMERON SUTTON** 6-1, 170, JONESBORO, GA  
Rated the No. 27 athlete and No. 49 prospect in Georgia by 247Sports. Ranked the nation's No. 40 cornerback by Scout.

**LB COREY VEREEN** 6-2, 230, WINTER GARDEN, FL  
Rated a 4-star prospect and the No. 21 linebacker in the nation by ESPN. Recorded 31 sacks over his final two high school seasons.

**OL DYLAN WIESMAN** 6-3, 312, CINCINNATI, OH  
Rated a 3-star prospect by 247Sports, as well as the No. 42 prospect in Ohio and No. 70 offensive tackle nationally.





# VANDERBILT COMMODORES

NATIONAL FORECAST: 28 // SEC EAST PREDICTION: 4

**J**ames Franklin has accomplished something most thought was not possible: He's made Vanderbilt football relevant in the SEC. After showing significant improvement in Franklin's first season — the Commodores won six games in 2011, two more than the previous two years combined — the program took an even bigger step forward in 2012. Vanderbilt went 9–4 overall and 5–3 in the SEC. The nine wins were the most since 1915, and the winning record in the league was the school's first since 1982. The Commodores ended the season on a seven-game winning streak, with five of the seven victories coming by 14 points or more. There was nothing fluky about Vanderbilt's breakthrough season — the Commodores ranked fifth in the league in total defense and a respectable eighth in total offense. And while a few key players must be replaced on both sides of the ball, there is more than enough returning talent to take this program to a third straight bowl game.

**QUARTERBACKS** It wasn't always the smoothest ride, but Jordan Rodgers will be remembered as one of the top quarterbacks in school history. The former junior college transfer went 11–8 in his 19 starts and became the first Vanderbilt quarterback to start two bowl games. Identifying his successor is the most pressing issue of the offseason. Austyn Carta-Samuels, a two year-starter at Wyoming and the 2009 Mountain West Freshman of the Year, is the strong favorite. Carta-Samuels is a dual-threat who threw for 3,655 yards and rushed for 758 in his two seasons at Wyoming. He started one game last year for Vanderbilt, throwing for 195 yards in an easy win over Presbyterian. "Austyn is a very confident kid," offensive coordinator John Donovan says. "He's got a strong arm, and he's done it before on the field in live play (at Wyoming)." Carta-Samuels will be pushed by Patton Robinette, a redshirt freshman from East Tennessee who was once committed to North Carolina. Josh Grady, recruited to Vanderbilt as a quarterback, played in all 13 games as the No. 4 wide receiver last season. He was moved back to quarterback in the spring. True freshman Johnny McCrary, a top recruit, will redshirt barring a rash of injuries.

**RUNNING BACKS** Zac Stacy finished his career as the school's all-time leading rusher. The Commodores will replace his production with a three-man committee — senior Wesley Tate and sophomores Jerron Seymour and Brian Kimbrow. Tate emerged as a consistent No. 2 back last year after spending the 2011 season at wide receiver. He had 10 carries or more five times in the last eight games and scored one touchdown in six of the last seven games. He has good size (6'1", 224) and outstanding speed but did not have a run longer than 25 yards in 2012. Kimbrow, a highly touted recruit, was the Commodores' second-leading rusher as a true freshman, though more than half of his 413 yards came against Presbyterian and UMass. He has tremendous speed but lacks the size to be an every-down back. Seymour shined early in his true freshman season of 2011, rushing for 130 yards and two scores on 24 carries in wins over Connecticut and Ole Miss. A leg injury curtailed his production during the last two-thirds of the season, and he sat out last fall as a medical redshirt. Don't be surprised if Seymour leads Vanderbilt in rushing in 2013.

**RECEIVERS** Vanderbilt boasts the SEC's best pair of starting wide receivers in Jordan Matthews and Chris Boyd. Matthews earned first-team all-conference honors as a junior after catching a league-best 94 passes for 1,323 yards and eight touchdowns. And his stats aren't padded by feasting on inferior competition. Dating back to the middle of the 2011 season, Matthews has averaged 116.9 yards in his last 12 SEC games. Boyd's numbers weren't as gaudy (50 catches for 774 yards), but he has tremendous hands — check out his touchdown grab in the Music City Bowl on YouTube — and is considered a legitimate NFL prospect. He needs to be more productive after the catch. The drop-off in production from Matthews and Boyd to the No. 3 receiver was significant — especially considering Vanderbilt runs three- or four-receiver sets on roughly 50 percent of its offensive snaps. Jonathan Krause, who started eight games, caught a total of nine passes for 69 yards. The Com-

## 2013 SCHEDULE

### AUGUST

29 Ole Miss

### SEPTEMBER

7 Austin Peay

14 at South Carolina

21 at Massachusetts

28 UAB

### OCTOBER

5 Missouri

19 Georgia

26 at Texas A&M

### NOVEMBER

9 at Florida

16 Kentucky

23 at Tennessee

30 Wake Forest



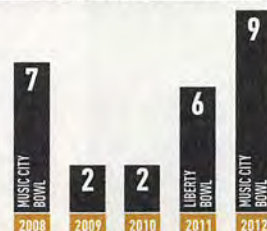
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## THE VERDICT

### 2013 PROJECTION: 8-4, 4-4 SEC

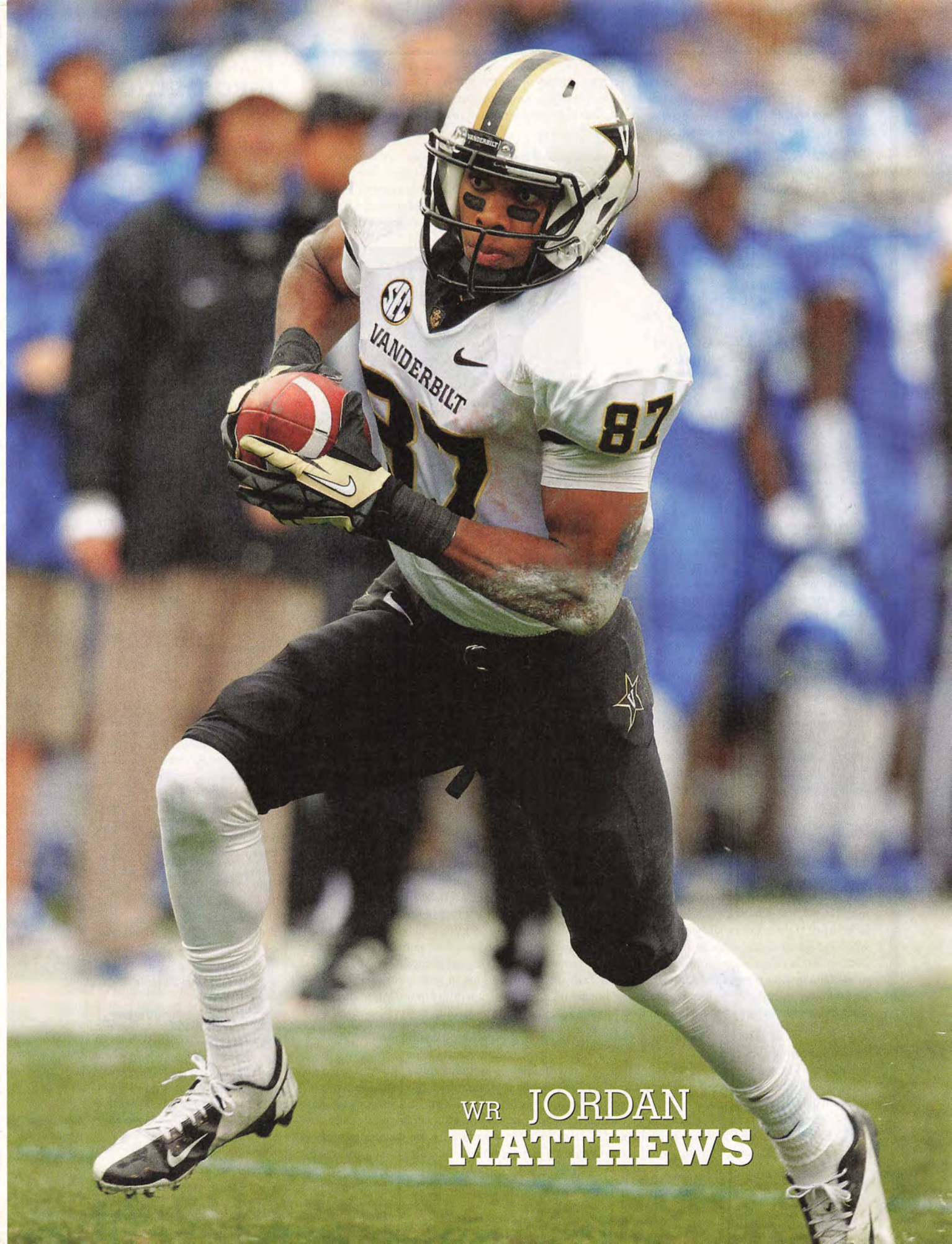
Vanderbilt must replace its quarterback and top tailback from the school's highest-scoring offense (30.0 ppg) since the 1940s. The strength of the offense will be at receiver with the return of Jordan Matthews and Chris Boyd. The offensive line should be improved despite the loss of two starters. If the quarterback play is solid, the offense will score plenty of points. The defense has ranked among the top 20 nationally in the past two seasons, and there is no reason to believe that will change. The Commodores have a solid kicker but must replace punter Richard Kent. A third straight bowl game is likely. Postseason: Gator Bowl vs. Michigan State

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Matthews: Ric Fogel; Hal: Paul Levy





WR JORDAN  
**MATTHEWS**



modores' recruiting class featured five wide receivers, and several of the true freshmen will be in line for immediate playing time. The tight end should be a bigger part of the passing attack in 2013. Junior college transfer Brandon Vandenburg could slide right into a starting role, though the coaching staff is high on sophomores Steven Scheu and Kris Kentera.

**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** No position group has progressed more during the course of the past two seasons. This year, however, the offensive line has a chance to be a strength from the start. The Commodores welcome back five players who made at least four starts, including three with nine or more. The headliner is senior tackle Wesley Johnson, a fourth-year starter who has not committed a holding penalty in his career despite starting every game over the past three seasons. Junior Andrew Bridges

## DEPTH CHART

### OFFENSE (7)

WR	87	Jordan Matthews (Sr.)	9	Trent Pruitt (Jr.)
WR	80	Chris Boyd (Jr.)		Jordan Cunningham (Fr.)
WR	17	Jonathan Krause (Sr.)		Carlos Burse (Fr.)
LT	67	Wesley Johnson (Sr.)	66	Blake Fromang (Fr.)
LG	53	Jake Bernstein (So.)	74	Will Holden (Fr.)
C	57	Joe Townsend (Jr.)	77	Spencer Pulley (Jr.)
RG	77	Spencer Pulley (Jr.)	56	Barrett Gouger (Fr.)
RT	52	Andrew Bridges (Jr.)	50	Andrew Jelks (Fr.)
TE		Brandon Vandenburg (Jr.)	81	Steven Scheu (So.)
QB	6	Austyn Carta-Samuels (Sr.)	4	Patton Robinette (Fr.)
RB	24	Wesley Tate (Sr.)	3	Jerron Seymour (So.)

### DEFENSE (6)

DE	92	Kyle Woestmann (Jr.)	55	Caleb Azubike (So.)
DT	44	Barron Dixon (Jr.)	97	Jared Morse (Jr.)
DT	53	Vince Taylor (Jr.)	69	Adam Butler (Fr.)
DE	90	Walker May (Sr.)	54	Jimmy Stewart (So.)
OLB	35	Darreon Herring (So.)	42	Kellen Williams (So.)
MLB	36	Chase Garnham (Sr.)	13	Jake Sealant (So.)
OLB	28	Karl Butler (Sr.)	30	Larry Franklin (So.)
CB	23	Andre Hal (Sr.)	2	Brandon Banks (Fr.)
CB	12	Steven Clarke (Sr.)	21	Paris Head (Fr.)
SS	31	Javon Marshall (Sr.)	10	Cory Batey (Fr.)
FS	1	Kenny Ladler (Sr.)	32	Andrew Williamson (So.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	39	Carey Spear (Sr.)	KR	23	Andre Hal (Sr.)
P	16	Colby Cooke (Fr.)	PR	17	Jonathan Krause (Sr.)

is the favorite to start at right tackle, though redshirt freshmen Andrew Jelks, who signed with Vanderbilt over an offer from Alabama, and Blake Fromang will each get a long look in the fall. Jake Bernstein and Spencer Pulley will head into fall camp atop the depth chart at guard, but there will be several talented redshirt freshmen in the mix. Joe Townsend is back after starting nine games at center.

**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** The Commodores feature three defensive ends who could play for any team in the league — a statement that can't often be made with conviction. Senior Walker May is a bit undersized (6'5", 255) but has been a consistent playmaker for the past two seasons. Junior Kyle Woestmann was perhaps the best player on the defense in the latter half of the season, with six sacks in the final seven games. And sophomore Caleb Azubike, called "one of the brightest defensive end prospects in the league" by defensive coordinator Bob Shoop, recorded 4.5 sacks as a true freshman. Vanderbilt lacks depth at defensive tackle, with only two players — Barron Dixon and Vince Taylor — returning who logged meaningful snaps at the position in 2012. Jared Morse, who started six games in 2012, was not enrolled in school in the spring after breaking a team rule. There is a good chance he will be back in the fall. Shoop expects a breakout season from Taylor, a 305-pound junior with surprising agility. To build some depth, the staff moved offensive lineman Adam Butler, a redshirt freshman, to defensive tackle in the spring, and also is looking at moving Azubike inside on passing downs.

**LINEBACKERS** The linebacking corps was an area of significant concern heading into the 2012 season. It became a strength of the defense by the end of the year. Shoop gives a lot of the credit to one player. "The success of the Vanderbilt defense — and the team — went hand-in-hand with when Chase Garnham became comfortable at middle linebacker," he says. Garnham, given the difficult task of replacing four-year starter Chris Marve, led the team with seven sacks and 12.5 tackles for a loss. "He needs to improve in pass coverage," says Shoop, "but Chase made a ton of plays in the backfield." Karl Butler is back at Star, a hybrid outside linebacker/safety position that has become part of the base defense. Darreon Herring, who logged significant playing time as a true freshman, will re-



**5.3**

Vanderbilt outgained its eight SEC opponents by an average of 5.3 yards per game. In 2010, the Dores were outgained by 245.4 yards per game in league play. In '11, the deficit was 28.5 yards per game.

## TEAM INFORMATION

### HEAD COACH

James Franklin

### RECORD AT SCHOOL

15-11 (2 years)

### CAREER RECORD

15-11 (2 years)

### OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

John Donovan

### DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Bob Shoop

### LOCATION

Nashville, TN

### STADIUM

Vanderbilt Stadium (40,350)

## KEY COMMODORES

**Wesley Johnson, OL** Local product has been arguably the most valuable player on the Commodores' roster in the last two seasons.

**Jordan Matthews, WR** Surprised many with his decision to return to Vanderbilt for his senior season. Led the SEC with 94 receptions in 2012.

**Andre Hal, CB** Second-team All-SEC pick in 2012 is the latest in a line of quality cornerbacks at Vanderbilt.

**Chris Boyd, WR** Made some of the most important catches of the 2012 season, including the game-winner at Ole Miss. Has 13 TDs in the last two seasons.

**Walker May, DE** Disruptive pass-rusher doesn't have ideal size, but he finds a way to get into the backfield. Recorded 10.5 tackles for a loss as a senior.

## KEY LOSSES

**Zac Stacy, RB** Alabama native was the first two-time 1,000-yard rusher in school history. Capped his career with 107 yards in Music City Bowl win.

**Jordan Rodgers, QB** Not many quarterbacks, at any school, end their career on a seven-game winning streak.

**Rob Lohr, DT** Productive interior lineman started 38 games over his final three seasons.

**Richard Kent, P** Three-year starter was the main reason the Commodores ranked 19th nationally in net punting (39.4).

**Ryan Seymour, OL** Versatile lineman started 35 games in his career. Played snaps at center, guard and tackle in 2012.

## RISING STAR

Vanderbilt didn't have to go far to find **Caleb Azubike**. And it didn't take the Nashville native long to make an immediate impact. The defensive end from McGavock High School played in all 13 games and set a record for a true freshman with 4.5 sacks. One of the team's most naturally gifted players, the 6'4", 258-pound Azubike looks the part of a future All-SEC pick.





## 2013 VANDERBILT ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
6 Carta-Samuels, Austyn	6-1/218	Sr.	Saratoga, CA
7 Grady, Josh	6-0/195	So.	Tampa, FL
2 McCrary, Johnny	6-4/212	Sr.	Decatur, GA
4 Robinette, Patton	6-4/208	Fr.	Maryville, TN

RUNNING BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
47 Anders, Tyler	5-10/192	Jr.	Richlands, VA
35 Clayton, Hasan	5-11/190	Sr.	Arlington Heights, IL
29 Fritz, Will	5-7/175	Jr.	Cincinnati, OH
47 Gowder, Blake	6-2/230	Jr.	Blairsville, GA
45 Hoffman, Joseph	5-10/205	So.	Scarsdale, NY
25 Kimbrow, Brian	5-8/185	So.	Memphis, TN
33 King, Derek	5-11/206	So.	Nashville, TN
38 Lassing, Fitz	6-3/242	Sr.	Nashville, TN
41 Martin, Chris	5-10/230	So.	Princeton, NJ
3 Seymour, Jerron	5-7/192	So.	Hialeah, FL
24 Tate, Wesley	6-1/224	Sr.	Hendersonville, TN

RECEIVERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
88 Allen, Erik	5-11/180	So.	Charlottesville, VA
80 Boyd, Chris	6-4/205	Jr.	Roswell, GA
81 Grecco, Alex	5-10/175	So.	Warwick, RI
17 Krause, Jonathan	5-11/192	Sr.	Snellville, GA
87 Matthews, Jordan	6-3/205	Sr.	Madison, AL
8 McKenzie, Tip	5-8/180	Fr.	Natchez, MS
9 Pruitt, Trent	5-9/180	Jr.	Fitzgerald, GA
85 Wilkins, Trey	5-11/205	Jr.	Cordova, TN

TIGHT ENDS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
82 Kentera, Kris	6-4/232	So.	Colorado Springs, CO
81 Scheu, Steven	6-5/255	So.	Evansville, IN
89 van der Wal, Dillon	6-6/255	Jr.	Woodland Hills, CA

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
53 Bernstein, Jake	6-4/305	So.	Lake in the Hills, IL
52 Bridges, Andrew	6-6/275	Jr.	Atlanta, GA
79 Brockway, Ryan	6-5/285	Sr.	Los Angeles, CA
72 Dowling, Sean	6-6/275	Fr.	Fallbrook, CA
66 Fromang, Blake	6-7/295	Fr.	Orlando, FL
56 Gouger, Barrett	6-4/305	Fr.	Soddy Daisy, TN
74 Holden, Will	6-6/295	Fr.	Green Cove Springs, FL
50 Jelks, Andrew	6-6/292	Fr.	Paris, TN
67 Johnson, Wesley	6-5/295	Sr.	Nashville, TN
78 McCoy, Kevin	6-5/300	Fr.	Tampa, FL
77 Pulley, Spencer	6-4/300	Jr.	Germantown, TN
57 Townsend, Joe	6-4/310	Jr.	Hendersonville, TN
73 White, Chase	6-5/290	Jr.	Plano, TX

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
94 Agee, Torey	6-4/280	Fr.	Opelika, AL
55 Azubike, Caleb	6-4/258	So.	Nashville, TN

93 Banks, Ladarius	6-2/292	Fr.	Dallas, GA
56 Bryant, Darien	6-4/235	So.	Pickerington, OH
69 Butler, Adam	6-4/298	Fr.	Duncanville, TX
44 Dixon, Barron	6-4/304	Jr.	Alpharetta, GA
90 May, Walker	6-5/255	Sr.	Birmingham, AL
97 Morse, Jared	6-2/295	Sr.	Oxford, AL
54 Stewart, Jimmy	6-4/245	So.	Cape Coral, FL
53 Taylor, Vince	6-2/305	Jr.	Hattiesburg, MS
45 Weatherly, Stephen	6-5/250	Fr.	Snellville, GA
92 Woestmann, Kyle	6-3/255	Jr.	Marietta, GA

LINEBACKERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
51 Bowman, Hunter	5-11/220	Jr.	Savannah, GA
28 Butler, Karl	6-1/215	Sr.	LaPlace, LA
30 Franklin, Larry	6-1/214	So.	Vero Beach, FL
36 Garnham, Chase	6-3/232	Sr.	Fairhope, AL
11 Harper, Harding	6-2/235	Fr.	Montgomery, AL
35 Herring, Darreon	6-2/222	So.	Stone Mountain, GA
22 Hughes, Casey	6-1/218	Jr.	Reading, PA
13 Sealand, Jake	6-2/225	So.	Tucker, GA
18 Sutton, Patrick	6-0/220	Sr.	Charleston, SC
40 Thomas, Ja'kari	6-1/222	Fr.	Tallahassee, FL
42 Williams, Kellen	6-1/225	So.	Winter Garden, FL

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
43 Aiello, Scot	5-10/185	Jr.	Franklin, TN
2 Banks, Brandon	5-10/165	Fr.	Brandywine, MD
10 Batey, Cory	6-0/210	Fr.	Nashville, TN
12 Clarke, Steven	5-10/198	Sr.	Lauderdale Lakes, FL
46 Cole, Damon	5-10/165	So.	Pearl, MS
49 Gregory, Josh	5-11/178	Jr.	Goodlettsville, TN
23 Hal, Andre	6-0/186	Sr.	Port Allen, LA
21 Head, Paris	6-0/186	Fr.	Lawrenceville, GA
38 Hysong, Alex	5-10/175	Jr.	Bethesda, MD
19 Kirk, Jacquese	6-0/178	So.	Jasper, AL
1 Ladler, Kenny	6-1/202	Sr.	Stone Mountain, GA
31 Marshall, Javon	5-10/202	Sr.	Huber Heights, OH
5 McGaster, Torren	6-0/195	Fr.	Daphne, AL
27 McIntosh, Jahmel	6-1/200	So.	Cleveland, MS
39 Stubbs, Dane	5-9/190	So.	Covington, LA
32 Williamson, Andrew	6-1/208	So.	San Antonio, TX

SPECIALISTS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
16 Cooke, Colby (P)	6-3/208	Fr.	Goochland, VA
34 East, Andrew (LS)	6-2/230	Jr.	Indianapolis, IN
29 Hudson, Taylor (P)	6-3/210	So.	Powell, OH
61 Morrison, Connor (LS)	6-0/235	So.	Edmond, OK
94 Morse, Xavier (K)	5-10/180	Jr.	Cambridge, MA
39 Spear, Carey (K)	5-10/190	Sr.	Mayfield Village, OH
98 Trepp, Will (LS)	5-11/260	So.	Greenwich, CT

## 2012 RESULTS

RECORD: 9-4, 5-3 (SEC)

Aug. 30	South Carolina	L	13-17
Sept. 8	at Northwestern	L	13-23
Sept. 15	Presbyterian	W	58-0
Sept. 22	at Georgia	L	3-48
Oct. 6	at Missouri	W	19-15
Oct. 13	Florida	L	17-31
Oct. 20	Auburn	W	17-13
Oct. 27	Massachusetts	W	49-7
Nov. 3	at Kentucky	W	40-0
Nov. 10	at Ole Miss	W	27-26
Nov. 17	Tennessee	W	41-18
Nov. 24	at Wake Forest	W	55-21
Dec. 31	vs. NC State #	W	38-24

#Music City Bowl



CHASE GARNHAM

## 2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jordan Rodgers	319	191	2,539	15	5
A. Carta-Samuels	25	14	208	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Zac Stacy	207	1,141	5.5	10
Brian Kimbrow	66	413	6.3	3
Wesley Tate	107	376	3.5	8
Warren Norman	21	75	3.6	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Jordan Matthews	94	1,323	14.1	8
Chris Boyd	50	774	15.5	5
Wesley Tate	12	116	9.7	1
Zac Stacy	10	205	20.5	0
Kris Kentera	10	98	9.8	2

**KICKING:** Carey Spear, 20-24 FGs, 27-27 XPs, 87 points

**TACKLES:** Kenny Ladler, 90; Chase Garnham, 84

**SACKS:** Chase Garnham, 7

**INTERCEPTIONS:** Trey Wilson, 3

Returning Players in Bold

## SCOUTING THE COMMODORES

### OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP VANDERBILT

"Their wideout, Jordan Matthews, is pretty good. He's really good, actually. He's pretty athletic, and he will make guys miss. Keeping him is pretty big. He had a chance to go to the NFL. ... The tight ends are undersized, basically position blockers that can kind of get in the way but aren't really point-of-attack guys. Vanderbilt will mix and match plays in the running game and try to create matchups that way. ... The quarterback that transferred from Wyoming (Austyn Carta-Samuels), they feel he's as talented as the guy they had, Jordan Rodgers. I'd have to see that. He's approaching spring ball like he's going to be the guy, like he can win the job. That's the right way to do it. ... (Tailback) Zac Stacy was a solid kid who ran well. Not sure if they will go to a running back-by-committee, but Stacy did a lot of things for them. They gave it to him 200-plus times, and he played really hard. ... Overall, they have a couple of skill guys who can make some plays down field, and the offensive line works well together. ... You know, they won nine games and play you really tough, but I think they'll be in the middle of the road — the middle of the pack in the SEC. That's not a knock on them. James Franklin has done a great job. They'll win some games. But the next step is to become an elite SEC team, and I'm just not sure they have the personnel yet."

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	30.0 ppg	7	55
Rushing	166.3 ypg	7	57
Passing	213.4 ypg	10	80
Total	379.7 ypg	8	80

Defense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	18.7 ppg	5	15
Rushing	142.2 ypg	8	38
Passing	191.8 ypg	3	14
Total	333.9 ypg	5	19

TD Margin	Per Game	SEC	National
0	0.00	8	58



place Archibald Barnes on the weak side. The Commodores created solid depth at linebacker last fall by often teaming Herring with Jake Sealand and Larry Franklin in an all-freshman second unit. "I think we will be better at linebacker this year," Shoop says.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** Andre Hal is an elite cornerback. Just ask his coach. "I think Andre is maybe the most underrated player in college football," Shoop says. Hal, a second-team All-SEC pick in 2012, led the Commodores with 14 pass break-ups and intercepted two passes in the win against Tennessee. Steven Clarke, the primary nickel back last fall, and redshirt freshmen Brandon Banks, Torren McGaster and Paris Head will battle to replace Trey Wilson at the other corner. Shoop loves to bring pressure, so it's important that he is comfortable leaving his cornerbacks in man coverage. The safety tandem of Javon Marshall and Kenny Ladler is back for another season, but depth at the position is a big concern. Cory Batey, a former wide receiver, could be the answer.

**SPECIALISTS** One of the underrated aspects of Vanderbilt's breakthrough season was the play of the kicking specialists. Place-kicker Carey Spear rebounded from a disappointing sophomore season to convert 20-of-24 as a junior, and punter Richard Kent was consistently strong all season long. Spear is back for one more season, but Kent, a three-year starter, must be replaced. Colby Cooke and walk-on Taylor Hudson are the top candidates.

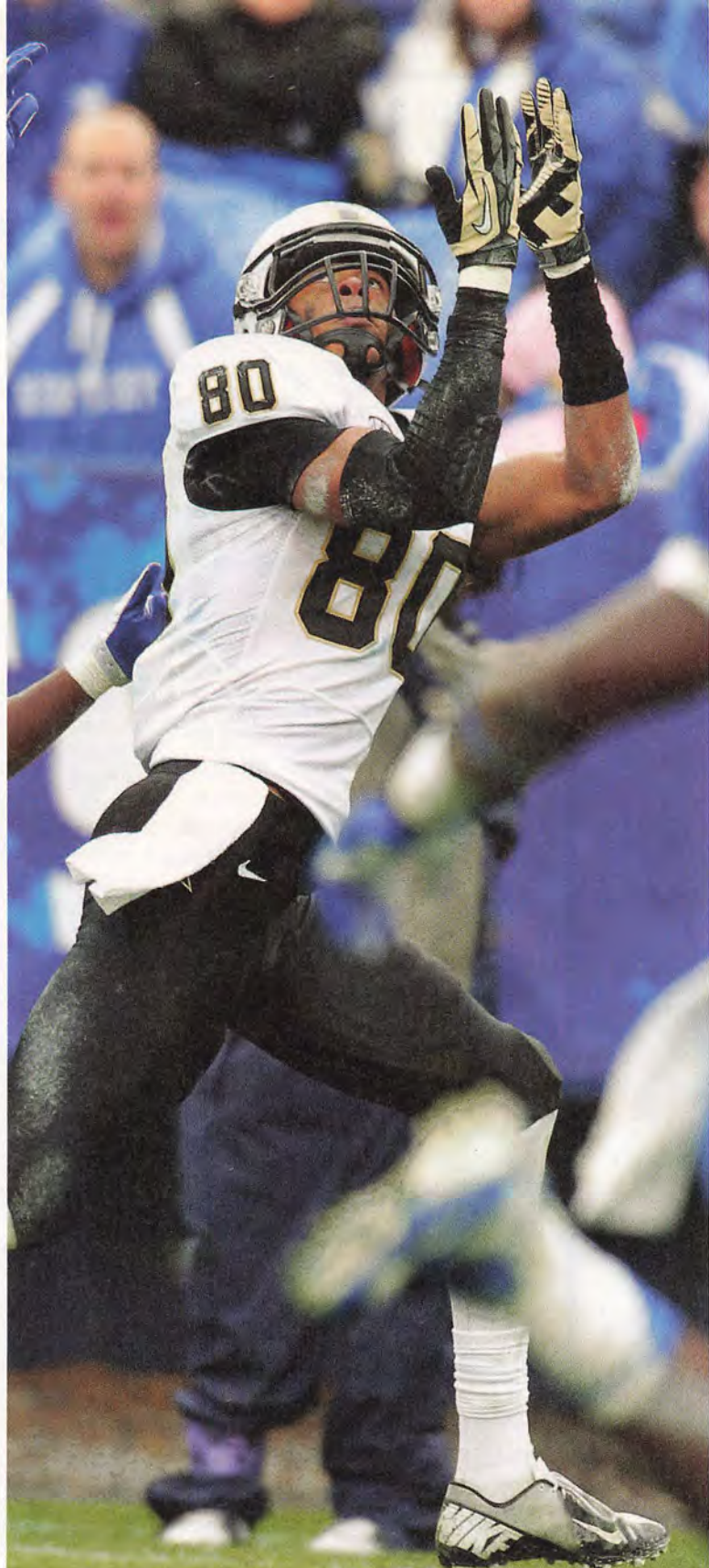
## OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

**MR. VERSATILE** Wesley Johnson might not be the best offensive lineman in the SEC, but he's no doubt the most versatile. According to records kept by Vanderbilt offensive line coach Herb Hand, Johnson has played 1,578 snaps at left tackle, 457 at center, 252 at right tackle, 108 at left guard and 67 at tight end. Johnson has started all 38 games in his career and has played in 98.5 percent of the offensive snaps and every extra point and field goal attempt. And, according to Hand, he has given up only 6.5 sacks in 1,021 career pass plays.

**REMEMBER ME?** Jerron Seymour made a quick impression on the Vanderbilt coaching staff as a true freshman in 2011. The diminutive tailback — he's listed at 5'7", 192 — jumped over several veterans during preseason camp and emerged as the No. 2 back behind Zac Stacy. Seymour rushed for 145 yards on 28 carries in his first three games, all Vanderbilt wins, but he managed only 123 yards over the final nine games due in part to a leg injury that wasn't quite serious enough to keep him out of the lineup. After sitting out the 2012 season as a redshirt, Seymour is in the mix to replace Stacy as the No. 1 tailback. "Some people may have forgotten about him, but we know what he can do," offensive coordinator John Donovan says. "I love that kid. He's got great feet. He's smart, and he's tough."

**ON THE DEFENSIVE** The same six schools have ranked in the top six in the SEC in total defense in the last two seasons — Alabama, LSU, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and ... Vanderbilt. That's right. After finishing last in the league in total defense in 2010 in the only season of the Robbie Caldwell era, the Commodores climbed to sixth in 2011 and fifth in 2012. The architect of the defense is Bob Shoop, who came to Vanderbilt after a four-year stint as the coordinator at William & Mary. "We didn't go out and just try to make the sexy hire," says Franklin, who first met Shoop at the 2011 AFCA convention. "We hired good coaches and guys who wanted to be here. And Bob wanted to be at Vanderbilt. He coached at William & Mary and at Boston College and he went to Yale. He was attracted to this place." Shoop has turned down several opportunities to leave Vanderbilt in the past 18 months. "Bob was offered a head coaching opportunity last year," Franklin says, "and this year he was offered coordinator jobs at schools some people would perceive to be big-time programs."

**WORST TO FIRST** Vanderbilt converted 20-of-24 field goal attempts in 2012 to rank first in the league in accuracy at 83.3 percent. The previous season, the Commodores ranked last after making only 57.1 percent (8-of-14) of their field goals. In '11, Carey Spear and Ryan Fowler shared the placekicking duties and each went 4-of-7, and neither made a kick longer than 40 yards. Spear won the job last season and set a single-season school record with 20 made field goals. He went 13-of-13 inside 40 yards and 2-of-3 beyond 50 yards.



WR CHRIS  
BOYD



# 2013 SIGNEES

Vanderbilt secured arguably its finest class in school history, earning a top-25 ranking by ESPN.com (22), Rivals (19), Scout (19) and Athlon Sports (23).

The Commodores signed five wide receivers, including three — Carlos Burse, Jordan Cunningham and DeAndre Woods — who received a 4-star rating from at least one of the services. Cunningham picked Vanderbilt over Miami, Florida State and Stanford.

Vanderbilt signed two quarterbacks, Johnny McCrary from Georgia and Chad Kanoff from California. Kanoff, however, had a change of heart in March and has decided to attend Princeton.

The Commodores expect an immediate contribution from tight end Brandon Vandenburg, a junior college transfer who picked Vanderbilt over Tennessee and Miami. Vandenburg began his career at the University of San Diego before transferring to a junior college.

## BREAKDOWN BY POSITION

Defensive Backs	5
Wide Receivers	5
Defensive Linemen	4
Linebackers	3
Tight Ends	3
Offensive Linemen	2
Quarterbacks	1
Running Backs	1
Kicking Specialists	1

## BY STATE

Georgia	7
Florida	4
Tennessee	4
Alabama	2
California	2
Illinois	2
Colorado	1
Kentucky	1
New Jersey	1

The defensive staff is excited about Jay Woods, a ready-made defensive tackle who should play his way into the two-deep in the fall. Woods, from Jackson, Ga., picked Vanderbilt over Georgia, Georgia Tech and Clemson. The Commodores beefed up their linebacking corps with a trio of 4-star prospects, Nigel Bowden, Oren Burks and Zach Cunningham. Burks could be ready to play right away. Five defensive backs were signed, highlighted by safety Jalen Banks and corners Tre Bell and Ryan White. The Commodores lack depth at safety, which could give Banks an opportunity to play as a true freshman.

Vanderbilt hoped to sign at least two running backs but missed out on several of its top targets. Rudy Ford, a 4-star back from Alabama, committed to the school in June but reneged in January and signed with Auburn. The Commodores' sole running back in the class is Ralph Webb, a 3-star prospect from Gainesville, Fla.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ...

JOHNNY MCCRARY • QB • DECATUR, GA

Just hours after the Vanderbilt coaching staff put the finishing touches on the 2012 recruiting class, word leaked out that Johnny McCrary, a quarterback from Georgia who had reported offers from Florida State, LSU, Oregon, Georgia and Ohio State, among others, had pledged his allegiance to Vanderbilt. To the surprise of most, the Commodores had secured a commitment from a 4-star quarterback who had yet to even visit the campus.

McCrary, the son of a former NFL tight end, picked Vanderbilt for the opportunity to make an impact on a football program that hasn't enjoyed sustained success in 70 years. The academics, of course, didn't hurt. "I want to use football to better my whole life and not just the next couple years of my life," McCrary told Rivals.com. "Where I come from people (don't) take advantage of their opportunities. I don't want to be part of that cycle."

McCrary, who enrolled at Vanderbilt in the spring, is a strong candidate to redshirt in 2013. He should, however, be in position to battle for the starting assignment in '14.

"He is a phenomenal passer," says Vanderbilt quarterbacks coach Ricky Rahne. "Everyone assumes he is a great athlete. He is a much better passer than he is athlete. He throws the ball with a nice touch and he has nice feel for the game."

DB **JALEN BANKS** 5-11, 188, MARKHAM, IL  
The No. 13 player in Illinois according to Rivals. Eight pass breakups as a senior.

DB **TRE BELL** 5-11, 170, UNION, NJ  
Four-star player according to ESPN. Had 12 pass breakups, three TDs as a senior.

LB **NIGEL BOWDEN** 6-1, 245, MACON, GA  
Four-star player according to Rivals, 247Sports. Nation's No. 9 MLB by Rivals.

LB **OREN BURKS** 6-3, 200, FAIRFAX STATION, VA  
No. 20 player in Virginia by Rivals. Had 123 tackles, 17 tackles for a loss, 3.5 sacks, six forced fumbles and three INTs as a senior.

WR **CARLOS BURSE** 6-2, 200, ALPHARETTA, GA  
Four-star player by ESPN and ranked among nation's top 300 players. Caught 49 passes for 854 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior.

OL **DELANDO CROOKS** 6-5, 275, ATLANTA, GA  
Nation's No. 28 offensive tackle according to Scout. Rated No. 41 guard by ESPN.

W **JORDAN CUNNINGHAM** 6-1, 175, FT. LAUDERDALE, FL  
Ranked No. 107 player in the nation by ESPN. Named Under Armour, MaxPreps All-American. 53 catches, 817 yards and eight total TDs as senior.

LB **ZACH CUNNINGHAM** 6-4, 205, PINSON, AL  
Rated the No. 10 player in Alabama by 247Sports. No. 16 OLB in nation by ESPN. As a senior, also earned first-team All-State recognition.

OL **SEAN DOWLING** 6-6, 270, FALLBROOK, CA  
Ranked No. 52 offensive tackle in the nation by 247Sports. Enrolled at Vanderbilt in January.

DB **TAUREAN FERGUSON** 5-9, 180, JONESBORO, GA  
Played in International Bowl and Georgia East-West All-Star Game. No. 59 CB in the nation by 247Sports.

TE **NATHAN MARCUS** 6-5, 220, GLEN ELLYN, IL  
No. 15 tight end in the nation by ESPN. No. 25 player in Illinois by 247Sports.

QB **JOHNNY MCCRARY** 6-3, 200, DECATUR, GA  
Four-star player according to Rivals, ESPN. Ranked No. 10 dual-threat quarterback in nation by Rivals. Participated in the U.S. All-American Bowl.

K/P **TOMMY OPENSHAW** 6-2, 175, JACKSONVILLE, FL  
Ranks among nation's top kicking specialists. 45.6-yard punting average in 2012.

TE **MITCHELL PARSONS** 6-4, 245, PARKER, CO  
Four-star player by Rivals and ranked the No. 7 tight end in the nation, as well as No. 2 player in Colorado. 45 catches for 754 yards and seven TDs as a senior.

WR **GERALD PERRY** 5-10, 165, MEMPHIS, TN  
No. 18 player in Tennessee by Rivals. Named All-State as a senior, posting 38 catches for 708 yards and 10 TDs, along with a pair of punt returns for scores.

WR **LATEVIUS RAYFORD** 6-1, 165, MEMPHIS, TN  
No. 11 player in Tennessee by 247Sports. Averaged 26.2 yards on 19 catches as a senior. Picked Vanderbilt over Auburn, Texas, Arizona State and others.

DB **DARRIUS SIMS** 5-9, 175, MEMPHIS, TN  
Ranked the No. 34 cornerback in the nation by Rivals and the No. 10 player in Tennessee. Defensive MVP of 6A state championship win for Whitehaven High School.

DE **LONDON STOKES** 6-4, 220, ORLANDO, FL  
Ranked No. 13 weak-side DE in the nation by 247Sports. Four-star player by ESPN and 247Sports. Had eight sacks as a senior.

TE **BRANDON VANDENBURG** 6-5, 255, INDIO, CA  
No. 2 junior college tight end in the nation according to Rivals. No. 34 player in California by 247Sports. 24 catches for 353 yards, three TDs in 2012.

DE **MACK WEAVER** 6-5, 248, COLLIERSVILLE, TN  
Four-star player according to ESPN. Rated No. 13 player in Tennessee by Rivals.

RB **RALPH WEBB** 5-10, 190, GAINESVILLE, FL  
Rated the No. 69 RB in the nation by 247Sports. Rushed for 2,020 yards as a senior.

DB **RYAN WHITE** 5-10, 178, LOUISVILLE, KY  
Four-star player by ESPN and Scout. No. 4 player in Kentucky by Rivals. Three-year starter for elite Trinity program.

WR **DEANDRE WOODS** 6-3, 208, CLAY, AL  
Four-star player by ESPN and ranked among nation's top 300 players. Caught 51 passes for 733 yards and nine TDs as a senior.

DT **JAY WOODS** 6-2, 280, JACKSON, GA  
Rated the No. 20 player in Georgia by ESPN and included among nation's top 300 players. 117 tackles, 22 tackles for a loss, six sacks, three forced fumbles in 2012.

DE **JONATHAN WYNN** 6-4, 220, STONE MOUNTAIN, GA  
Rated the No. 27 weak-side defensive end in the nation by 247Sports. 19 tackles for loss and 11 sacks as a senior.



# A ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

NATIONAL FORECAST: 1 // SEC WEST PREDICTION: 1

**N**ick Saban wasn't even 24 hours removed from Alabama's third BCS National Championship victory in the past four seasons when his focus shifted to the next challenge. "Every opponent we play next year will certainly have it targeted on their schedule to beat us," Saban said. "We'll have a lot of challenges for ourselves, and the team that we have next year is 0-0."

That's the kind of mentality that's prevailed on an Alabama team that returns more than enough of the pieces from last year's squad to be one of the biggest favorites to win it all in 2013. Quarterback AJ McCarron and linebacker C.J. Mosley both passed on the NFL Draft, 12 other starters are back, the 5-star recruiting pipeline continues to flow and the schedule certainly looks favorable for the Crimson Tide, who haven't been a Las Vegas underdog since the 2009 SEC Championship Game. Yet it's the few question marks — replacing three starters on the offensive line, a slew of new faces on the defensive line, a relatively inexperienced secondary and instability at kicker — that keep Saban up at night.

**QUARTERBACKS** McCarron's long-assumed decision to return to Alabama for his senior season came with little drama or fanfare, but there's a reason why it was announced in the first place. The McCarron who led Alabama to a national championship in 2012 played with better restraint, increased swagger and an enhanced trust to do more in an Alabama offense — under first-year coordinator Doug Nussmeier — that aired it out with more frequency and less predictability. The end result was one of the best seasons by a quarterback in program history, as McCarron completed 67.2 percent of his passes for 2,933 yards, 30 touchdowns and just three interceptions. A look beyond the basic stat sheet reveals that McCarron is even better on the game's biggest stages. He spearheaded Alabama's comeback victories over LSU and Georgia, and he completed 43-of-62 passes for 498 yards and four touchdowns in the Tide's last two BCS National Championship victories. Meanwhile, the heir apparent to McCarron remains undecided. Five scholarship quarterbacks — junior Blake Sims, sophomore Phillip Ely, redshirt freshman Alec Morris and true freshmen Parker McLeod and Cooper Bateman — and preferred walk-on Luke Del Rio engaged in a wide-open spring competition that ended with little clarity.

**RUNNING BACKS** The revolving door at the latest version of "Running Back U" continues to swing. Out goes Eddie Lacy, up steps T.J. Yeldon and in go four new, highly touted additions to an Alabama backfield that is once again flush with depth. It all starts with Yeldon, who split carries with Lacy in a similar fashion as Heisman Trophy winner Mark Ingram and Trent Richardson did in 2010. The result was two 1,000-plus yard running backs and, more important, two relatively fresh bodies who were simply dominant down the stretch. Finding the No. 2 and 3 to Yeldon, who has shown a veteran's savvy when surveying the field and a natural ability to catch passes out of the backfield, will be an August project, as three highly touted freshmen join a group that already includes sophomore Kenyan Drake and Derrick Henry, a 6'3", 238-pound early enrollee.

**RECEIVERS** The entire cast of 2012 contributors — minus two lightly used players who left the program — is back. So, too, are senior Kenny Bell, junior DeAndrew White and redshirt freshman Chris Black, all of whom missed all or a significant portion of last season because of injuries. Five-star freshman Robert Foster and 6'4" early enrollee Raheem Falkins are also expected to contend for playing time in a unit that will be led by sophomore Amari Cooper, who broke most of Julio Jones' freshman records. Freshman OJ Howard, a 5-star prospect who joined the Crimson Tide in January, could also give the Alabama passing game a new wrinkle at H-back or tight end — positions that haven't exactly featured dynamic playmakers in recent years.

**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** There's no bigger question mark on Alabama's roster than along the offensive line, as the Crimson Tide will look to replace two first-round NFL Draft picks (Chance War-

## 2013 SCHEDULE

### AUGUST

31 vs. Virginia Tech #

### SEPTEMBER

14 at Texas A&M

21 Colorado State

28 Ole Miss

### OCTOBER

5 Georgia State

12 at Kentucky

19 Arkansas

26 Tennessee

### NOVEMBER

9 LSU

16 at Mississippi State

23 Chattanooga

30 at Auburn

#Atlanta, GA



T.J. YELDON

## THE VERDICT

### 2013 PROJECTION: 13-0, 8-0 SEC

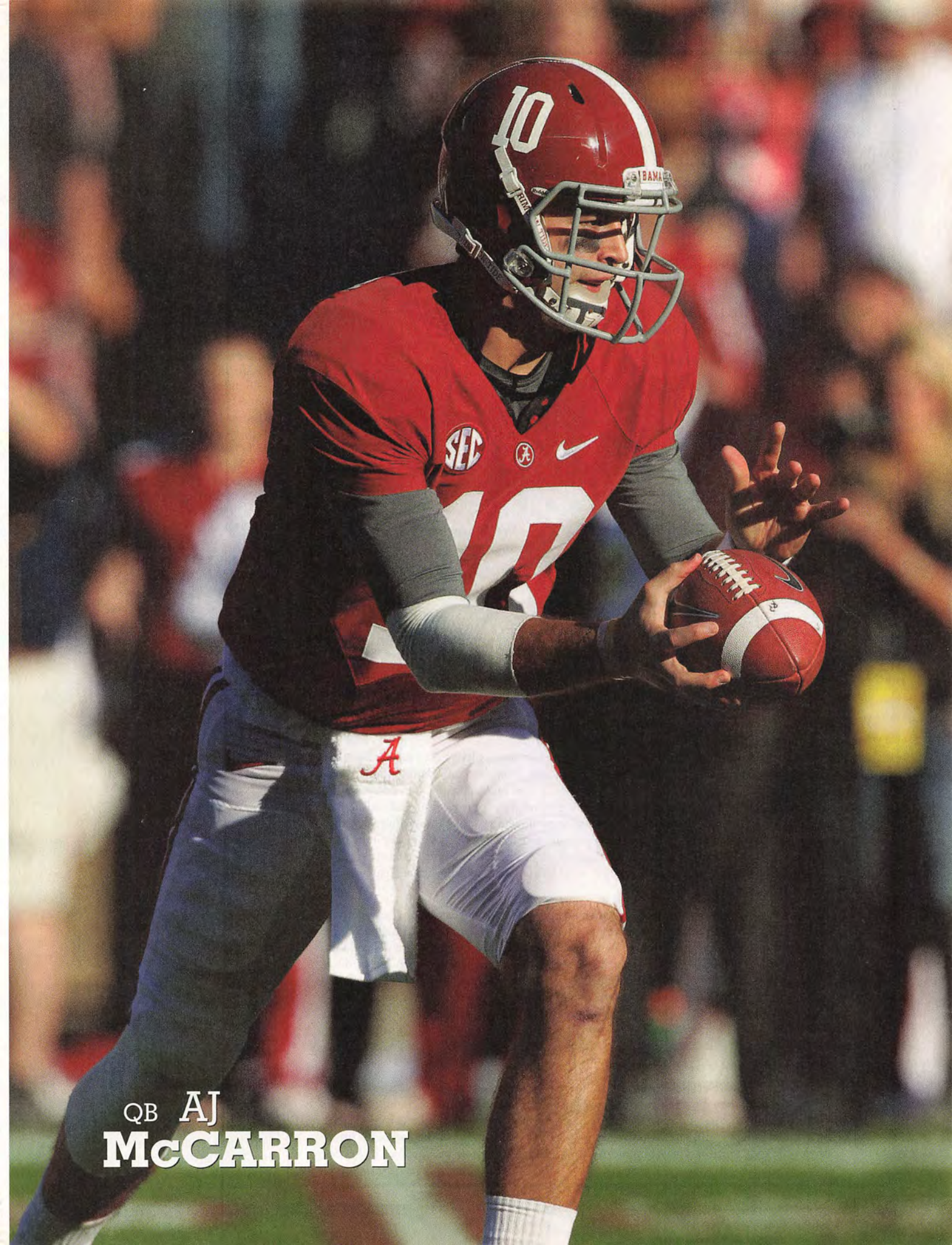
Quarterback AJ McCarron had an outstanding 2012 campaign (30 TDs, three INTs) and is surrounded by a deep group of weapons, most notably running back T.J. Yeldon and receiver Amari Cooper. The offensive line is the biggest area of concern, as three All-SEC performers depart. The defense, led by a deep collection of linebackers, will once again be among the nation's best. There are several potential speed bumps on the 2013 schedule, but Nick Saban should have the Crimson Tide playing in the BCS National Championship Game for the fourth time in five seasons. Postseason: BCS National Championship vs. Ohio State

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



McCarron: Tim Clark/Alison Sports  
Yeldon: Patrick Murphy-Racey





QB AJ  
**McCARRON**



mack and D.J. Fluker) and one of the most decorated players in the program's history (Barrett Jones). The rebuilding task falls on the shoulders of a new offensive line coach, former FIU head coach Mario Cristobal, who left a similar job at his alma mater, Miami, to tackle this challenge. Sophomore Ryan Kelly, who received first-team snaps during Alabama's BCS prep because of an injury to Jones, will take command at center, but the competition at left guard and right tackle is far from over. Junior Arie Kouandjio, the older brother of starting left tackle Cyrus Kouandjio, is among the front-runners to replace Warmack at left guard. Junior Austin Shepherd shares a similar distinction in the battle to replace Fluker and line up next to returning right guard Anthony Steen, who did not allow a single sack in 2012.

## DEPTH CHART

### OFFENSE (6)

WR	9	Amari Cooper (So.)	2	DeAndrew White (Jr.)
WR	83	Kevin Norwood (Sr.)	7	Kenny Bell (Sr.)
WR	5	Chris Black (Fr.)	22	Christian Jones (Jr.)
LT	71	Cyrus Kouandjio (Jr.)	58	Brandon Greene (Fr.)
LG	77	Arie Kouandjio (Jr.)	63	Kellen Williams (Sr.)
C	70	Ryan Kelly (So.)	78	Chad Lindsay (Jr.)
RG	61	Anthony Steen (Sr.)	68	Isaac Luatua (So.)
RT	79	Austin Shepherd (Jr.)	72	Leon Brown (Jr.)
TE	84	Brian Vogler (Jr.)	88	O.J. Howard (Fr.)
QB	10	A.J. McCarron (Sr.)	6	Blake Sims (Jr.)
RB	4	T.J. Yeldon (So.)	17	Kenyan Drake (So.)

### DEFENSE (8)

DE	49	Ed Stinson (Sr.)	44	LaMichael Fanning (So.)
NG	99	Brandon Ivory (Jr.)	95	Darren Lake (So.)
DE	8	Jeffrey Pagan (Jr.)	54	Dalvin Tomlinson (Fr.)
OLB	42	Adrian Hubbard (Jr.)	7	Ryan Anderson (Fr.)
ILB	32	C.J. Mosley (Sr.)		Reuben Foster (Fr.)
ILB	33	Trey DePriest (Jr.)	18	Reggie Ragland (So.)
OLB	47	Xzavier Dickson (Jr.)	30	Denzel Devall (So.)
CB	13	Deion Belue (Sr.)	5	Cyrus Jones (So.)
CB	24	Geno Smith (So.)	16	Bradley Sylve (So.)
S	6	Ha Ha Clinton-Dix (Jr.)	3	Vinnie Sunseri (Jr.)
S	26	Landon Collins (So.)	20	Jarrick Williams (Jr.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	43	Cade Foster (Sr.)	KR	22	Christian Jones (Jr.)
P	29	Cody Mandell (Sr.)	PR	1	Dee Hart (So.)

**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** The turnover is on par with the offensive line, but the task to reload doesn't seem nearly as daunting. That's because Alabama, as it typically does, rotated at least seven players on a regular basis last season. So, while the losses of nose guard Jesse Williams and defensive ends Damion Square and Quinton Dial might seem like a big-time blow, there shouldn't be much of a drop-off if players such as Jeffrey Pagan, Brandon Ivory and LaMichael Fanning do what their predecessors did and step up their games now that their time has arrived. Senior Ed Stinson, who was tops among defensive linemen in tackles for a loss last season, is the "old man" of a group that will hope to establish a more consistent pass rush in 2013. With D.J. Pettway kicked off the team, Fanning and redshirt freshman Dalvin Tomlinson have the best chance to emerge as the kind of "fast-twitch," athletic pass-rushers Saban wants on the edge.

**LINEBACKERS** Mosley was considered one of the best linebackers in the nation and was voted by his teammates as Alabama's MVP. Yet the ultra-talented playmaker started just 10 of 14 games, as he was part of a three-man rotation at Alabama's two inside linebacker spots. One of the three, Nico Johnson, is gone to the NFL, and Mosley, who primarily played when Alabama was in its nickel or dime defenses, hopes that means more snaps for him. He'll be flanked on the inside by junior Trey DePriest and surrounded by a group of outside linebackers that, much like the defensive line, hopes to establish a more consistent pass rush. Junior Adrian Hubbard is the biggest threat to do just that, while sophomore Denzel Devall hopes to build off a strong finish to his freshman season. Junior Xzavier Dickson, who had two sacks in the SEC Championship Game, has the size (6'3", 265) and ability to play both at linebacker and on the defensive line.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** Deion Belue went from the fresh-faced junior college transfer to the grizzled veteran of the secondary. Belue and safeties Ha Ha Clinton-Dix and Vinnie Sunseri provide the veteran experience, while sophomores Geno Smith and Landon Collins look to fill the roles vacated by cornerback Dee Milliner and safety Robert Lester. Smith came on strong at the end of his freshman season, as he rode some hard coaching from Saban into a starting role in Alabama's nickel de-



**5** Alabama has lost only one game by more than five points dating back to the start of the 2009 season. That loss: 35-21 at South Carolina in October 2010.

## TEAM INFORMATION

### HEAD COACH

Nick Saban

### RECORD AT SCHOOL

68-13 (6 years)

### CAREER RECORD

159-55-1 (16 years)

### OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Doug Nussmeier

### DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Kirby Smart

### LOCATION

Tuscaloosa, AL

### STADIUM

Bryant-Denny Stadium (101,821)

## KEY CRIMSON TIDE

**C.J. Mosley, LB** A finalist for the Butkus Award in 2012, he led Alabama with 107 tackles — 48 more than anyone else on the team.

**A.J. McCarron, QB** Incredibly efficient, he didn't throw his first interception of 2012 until the 10th game of the season; threw for 2,933 yards and 30 TDs.

**T.J. Yeldon, RB** Split carries almost evenly with Eddie Lacy as a freshman en route to 1,239 yards of offense and a combined 13 touchdowns.

**Cyrus Kouandjio, LT** Already drawing the interest of NFL scouts, he started all 14 games as a sophomore and is poised to do the same on a rebuilt offensive line.

**Adrian Hubbard, LB** Gave the NFL some serious thought after leading the Crimson Tide with 11 tackles for a loss and seven sacks.

## KEY LOSSES

**Dee Milliner, CB** A true lock-down cornerback who was a finalist for the Jim Thorpe Award and tied for second in the nation with 1.69 pass breakups per game.

**Chance Warmack, LG** An absolute bulldozer of an offensive lineman who helped plow cavernous holes for the Crimson Tide's running backs.

**Barrett Jones, C** Left Alabama as one of the program's most decorated players, seeing a full season's worth of action at guard, tackle and center.

**D.J. Fluker, RT** The heart and soul of Alabama's offensive line, he provided run-blocking power and showed tremendous improvement as a pass-blocker.

**Jesse Williams, NG** The massive Australian was front and center on one of the nation's top run defenses and occasionally saw a few snaps at fullback.

## RIISING STAR

Highly touted freshman **Chris Black** was lost for the year when he injured his shoulder during the 2012 preseason. He was healthy enough to contribute at the end of the season, but Alabama stuck with the plan to redshirt him. Now, the speedy slot receiver is back to 100 percent and hungry as ever to build off what had been a promising start to his career.



## 2013 ALABAMA ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
19 Aldag, Edward	6-0/185	So.	Birmingham, AL
18 Bateman, Cooper	6-3/208	Fr.	Murray, UT
14 Del Rio, Luke	6-2/203	Fr.	Highlands Ranch, CO
12 Ely, Phillip	6-1/198	So.	Tampa, FL
10 McCarron, AJ	6-4/214	Sr.	Mobile, AL
15 McLeod, Parker	6-3/193	Fr.	Marietta, GA
11 Morris, Alec	6-3/230	Fr.	Allen, TX
44 Sandlin, Matt	6-3/207	Jr.	Tuscaloosa, AL
6 Sims, Blake	6-0/202	Jr.	Gainesville, GA
RUNNING BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
17 Drake, Kenyan	6-1/201	So.	Powder Spring, GA
45 Fowler, Jalston	6-1/250	Jr.	Mobile, AL
1 Hart, Dee	5-9/187	So.	Orlando, FL
3 Henry, Derrick	6-2/238	Fr.	Yulee, FL
34 Howell, Ben	5-9/194	Sr.	Gordo, AL
32 Roberts, Trey	6-0/180	So.	Mobile, AL
4 Yeldon, T.J.	6-2/218	So.	Daphne, AL
RECEIVERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
87 Barrineau, Parker	6-0/183	So.	Northport, AL
35 Bass, Tyler	5-10/175	Sr.	Birmingham, AL
7 Bell, Kenny	6-1/180	Sr.	Rayville, LA
5 Black, Chris	5-11/182	Fr.	Jacksonville, FL
9 Cooper, Amari	6-1/202	So.	Miami, FL
36 Ellison, Dustin	6-0/170	Jr.	Monroeville, AL
80 Falkins, Raheem	6-4/203	Fr.	New Orleans, LA
22 Jones, Christian	5-11/185	Jr.	Adamsville, AL
83 Norwood, Kevin	6-2/195	Sr.	D'Iberville, MS
81 Reed, Ty	6-1/190	Sr.	Rocky Hill, CT
38 Watson, Jared	6-0/170	Sr.	Northport, AL
33 Watson, Jeremy	6-1/184	Sr.	Northport, AL
2 White, DeAndrew	6-0/190	Jr.	Houston, TX
TIGHT ENDS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
85 Faciane, Malcolm	6-5/267	So.	Picayune, MS
41 Freitag, Kurt	6-4/235	Fr.	Buford, GA
86 Harris, Truett	6-3/210	So.	Brentwood, TN
88 Howard, DJ	6-6/237	Fr.	Prattville, AL
82 Jones, Harrison	6-4/241	Jr.	Germantown, TN
47 McCarron, Corey	6-2/238	So.	Mobile, AL
46 Mysewander, Michael	6-1/235	Jr.	Hoover, AL
84 Vogler, Brian	6-7/260	Jr.	Columbus, GA
89 Williams, Kieran	6-4/236	Fr.	Lawrenceville, GA
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
72 Brown, Leon	6-6/313	Jr.	Riverdale, MD
58 Greene, Brandon	6-5/307	Fr.	Ellenwood, GA
74 Gullledge, Caleb	6-4/286	Fr.	Prattville, AL
73 Hill, Brandon	6-6/385	Fr.	Collierville, TN
70 Kelly, Ryan	6-5/290	So.	West Chester, OH
77 Kouandjio, Arie	6-5/315	Jr.	Hyattsville, MD
71 Kouandjio, Cyrus	6-6/310	Jr.	Hyattsville, MD
78 Lindsay, Chad	6-2/302	Jr.	The Woodlands, TX
68 Luatua, Isaac	6-2/313	So.	La Mirada, CA
60 Moore, Brandon	6-0/313	So.	Cincinnati, OH
59 Nicholson, Harold	6-5/283	Jr.	Columbus, OH
79 Shepherd, Austin	6-5/315	Jr.	Buford, GA

61 Steen, Anthony	6-3/309	Sr.	Clarksdale, MS
50 Taylor, Alphonse	6-5/335	Fr.	Mobile, AL
69 Waldrop, Paul	6-4/276	So.	Phenix City, AL
63 Williams, Kellen	6-3/302	Sr.	Lawrenceville, GA
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
94 Ball, Dakota	6-2/270	Fr.	Lindale, GA
44 Fanning, LaMichael	6-7/270	So.	Hamilton, GA
99 Ivory, Brandon	6-4/310	Jr.	Memphis, TN
90 Jones, Berniel	6-3/240	Jr.	Montgomery, AL
85 Kirven, Korren	6-5/281	Fr.	Lynchburg, VA
95 Lake, Darren	6-3/324	So.	York, AL
51 Love, Wilson	6-3/286	So.	Mountain Brook, AL
64 Newsome, Michael	6-2/250	Jr.	Cockeysville, MD
53 Orr, Anthony	6-4/282	Jr.	Madison, AL
8 Pagan, Jefffrey	6-4/290	Jr.	Asheville, NC
49 Stinson, Ed	6-4/292	Sr.	Homestead, FL
54 Tomlinson, Dalvin	6-2/287	Fr.	McDonough, GA
97 Woods, Jay	6-2/275	So.	Frisco, TX
LINEBACKERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
7 Anderson, Ryan	6-2/255	Fr.	Daphne, AL
39 Crowder, Paden	6-4/200	So.	Vestavia Hills, AL
33 DePriest, Trey	6-2/245	Jr.	Springfield, OH
30 Deval, Denzel	6-2/250	So.	Bastrop, LA
55 Dickerson, Josh	6-1/244	So.	Evans, GA
47 Dickson, Xavier	6-3/265	Jr.	Griffin, GA
42 Hubbard, Adrian	6-6/252	Jr.	Lawrenceville, GA
25 Lee, Dillon	6-4/242	So.	Buford, GA
32 Mosley, C.J.	6-2/232	Sr.	Theodore, AL
34 Owens, Tyler	6-0/220	Jr.	Columbiana, AL
11 Patrick, Tana	6-3/238	Sr.	Bridgeport, AL
18 Ragland, Reggie	6-2/259	So.	Madison, AL
47 Tinney, Matt	6-1/247	Sr.	Hoover, AL
DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
13 Belue, Deion	5-11/183	Sr.	Tusculum, AL
31 Bierbower, Jerrod	6-1/190	Jr.	Dublin, Ohio
6 Clinton-Dix, Ha Ha	6-1/208	Jr.	Orlando, FL
26 Collins, Landon	6-0/215	So.	Geismar, LA
10 Fulton, John	6-0/186	Sr.	Manning, SC
41 Geddes, Daniel	5-6/170	Jr.	Northport, AL
5 Jones, Cyrus	5-10/196	So.	Baltimore, MD
19 Miller, Jai	6-3/213	Fr.	Valley Grande, AL
12 Morton, Taylor	5-11/186	Jr.	Centerville, AL
27 Perry, Nick	6-1/212	Sr.	Prattville, AL
24 Smith, Geno	6-0/186	So.	Atlanta, GA
3 Sunseri, Vinnie	6-0/210	Jr.	Tuscaloosa, AL
16 Sylve, Bradley	5-11/180	So.	Port Sulphur, LA
23 Washington, Gabriel	5-11/185	So.	Jackson, TN
20 Williams, Jarrick	6-1/210	Jr.	Mobile, AL
SPECIALISTS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
43 Foster, Cade (K)	6-1/224	Sr.	Southlake, TX
45 Gregory, Worth (P)	6-3/200	So.	Fort Mill, SC
99 Griffith, Adam (K)	5-10/187	Fr.	Calhoun, GA
58 Harrelson, Alex (LS)	6-0/220	So.	Vestavia Hills, AL
29 Mandell, Cody (P)	6-4/213	Sr.	Lafayette, LA
50 Taylor, MK (LS)	5-10/229	Sr.	Oxford, AL

## 2012 RESULTS

RECORD: 13-1, 7-1 (SEC)

Sept. 1	vs. Michigan %	W	41-14
Sept. 8	Western Kentucky	W	35-0
Sept.15	at Arkansas	W	52-0
Sept.22	Florida Atlantic	W	40-7
Sept.29	Ole Miss	W	33-14
Oct. 13	at Missouri	W	42-10
Oct. 20	at Tennessee	W	44-13
Oct. 27	Mississippi State	W	38-7
Nov. 3	at LSU	W	21-17
Nov. 10	Texas A&M	L	24-29
Nov. 17	Western Carolina	W	49-0
Nov. 24	Auburn	W	49-0
Dec. 1	vs. Georgia &	W	32-28
Jan. 7	vs. Notre Dame #	W	42-14

%Arlington & Atlanta #BCS Nat'l Championship



AMARI COOPER

## 2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
AJ McCarron	314	211	2,933	30	3
Blake Sims	10	5	77	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Eddie Lacy	204	1,322	6.5	17
T.J. Yeldon	175	1,108	6.3	12
Kenyan Drake	42	281	6.7	5
Blake Sims	30	187	6.2	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Amari Cooper	59	1,000	16.9	11
Kevin Norwood	29	461	15.9	4
Christian Jones	27	368	13.6	4
Michael Williams	24	183	7.6	4

**KICKING:** Jeremy Shelley, 11-11 FGs, 69-69 XPs, 102 points

**TACKLES:** C.J. Mosley, 107; Trey DePriest, 59

**SACKS:** Adrian Hubbard, 7

**INTERCEPTIONS:** Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, 5

Returning Players in Bold

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	38.7 ppg	2	12
Rushing	227.5 ypg	2	16
Passing	218.0 ypg	8	75
Total	445.5 ypg	4	31

Defense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	10.9 ppg	1	1
Rushing	76.4 ypg	1	1
Passing	173.6 ypg	1	7
Total	250.0 ypg	1	1

TO Margin	Per Game	SEC	National
+14	+1.00	4	13

## SCOUTING THE CRIMSON TIDE

### OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP ALABAMA

"They'll be really good again, don't worry. They lost a lot of guys on the defensive line — Damion Square and Jesse Williams were very productive, strong guys for them. Last year wasn't their best defensive line, and they might not have been quick enough to handle fast quarterbacks who could turn broken plays into big gains like Johnny Manziel, but it was solid and they need to develop the right depth there. ... Even losing D.J. Fluker and Chance Warmack and Barrett Jones, they'll still be really good up front. Those offensive linemen spend two years behind the scenes to get physically bulked up to compete. ... On offense, they can be better than last year. One of their really good receivers, DeAndrew White, will be back from injury. He's playing really good. Running back, I think they'll still be solid. T.J. Yeldon is looking strong. ... Obviously a lot depends on how well the defense develops. Linebackers and secondary, they'll be fine. C.J. Mosley is probably the best linebacker in the country. They have depth there. It comes down to that defensive line and whether they can improve against quarterbacks that can beat you with their feet. They really didn't have an answer for Manziel last season. They could stand to get quicker up front. ... AJ McCarron keeps improving every year. His footwork has really developed. He can have another great year."



fense. Collins, a highly touted signee in the 2012 class, earned his stripes on special teams and certainly looks the part of the kind of physically imposing safety that's been common at Alabama in recent years. Clinton-Dix and Belue each had their ups and downs in 2012, but both players were reliable far more than they were liabilities. There's plenty of room for improvement across the board, as the Crimson Tide secondary, despite helping contribute to one of the nation's best statistical pass defenses, was torched in back-to-back games against LSU and Texas A&M in 2012.

**SPECIALISTS** Jeremy Shelley didn't attempt a field goal longer than 39 yards in 2012, but his accuracy will be missed as Alabama tinkers with its two-man lineup on field goals. Cade Foster has handled kickoffs and long field goal attempts for the past few years, and he showed great improvement in both during his junior season. Redshirt freshman Adam Griffith came to Alabama as one of the nation's top-rated kickers in 2012, but he's yet to attempt a meaningful kick. Alabama knows what it has in senior Cody Mandell at punter, and that's one of the SEC's most reliable legs who showed dramatically improved consistency during his junior season. Mandell was at his best in the biggest games last season, as he averaged nearly 50 yards per punt in the BCS National Championship, placed three inside the 20-yard line against Georgia in the SEC Championship Game and booted a 56-yarder at LSU.

## OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

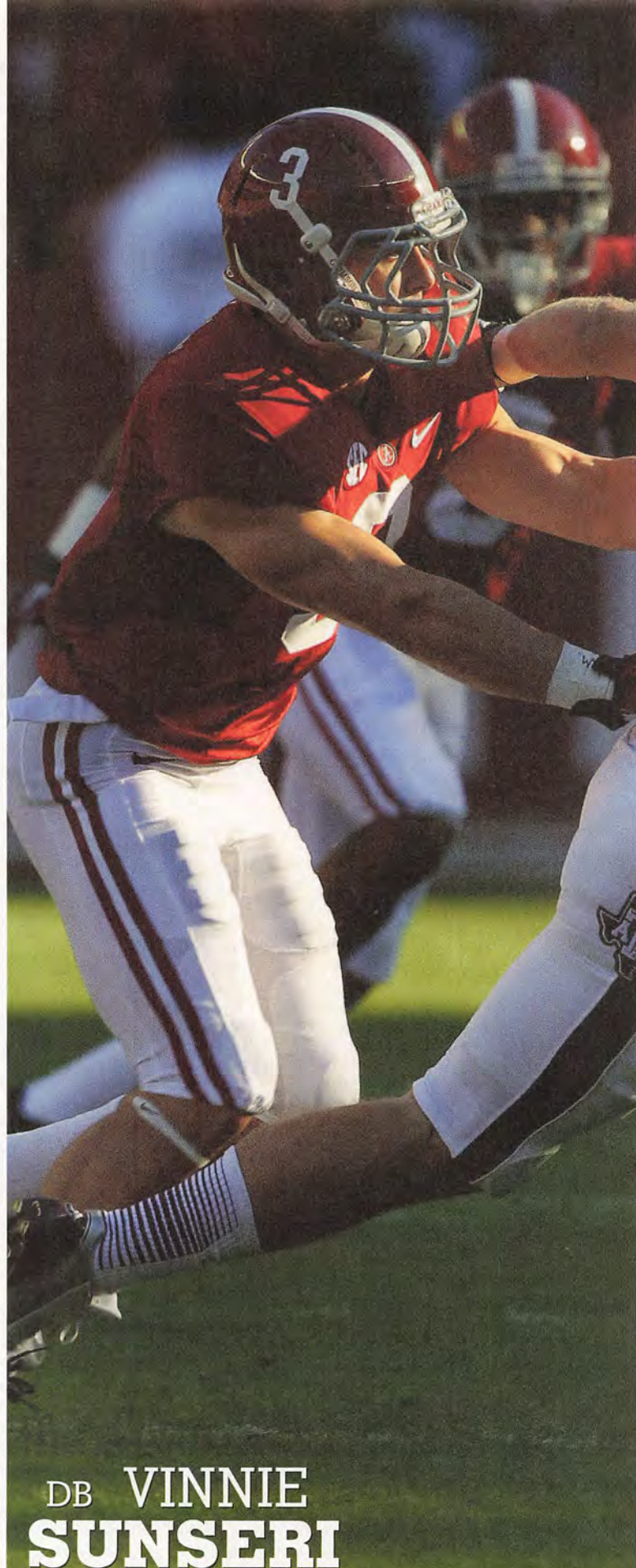
**NOT YOUR TYPICAL WALK-ON** When Jai Miller graduated from high school, most of his Alabama teammates were still in elementary school. The Crimson Tide's newest safety is a freshman from nearby Valley Grande, but there's nothing ordinary about Miller, who recently turned 28. Before he arrived in Tuscaloosa as a walk-on, Miller spent 10 years playing minor league baseball. He cracked the big leagues on a couple of occasions, but it wasn't enough to keep him away from fulfilling a different dream. Miller, at 6'3" and 213 pounds, came to Alabama in great shape and already looks like one of the team's most imposing defensive backs. How he grasps Nick Saban's complex defense should determine how much of an impact he makes in 2013. "I think anytime you're off for awhile, it takes a little bit of time to transition back into it," Saban says. "But I've been encouraged by his athleticism and his size. He's a bright guy."

**KEEPING QB1 HAPPY** Saban brought in one of quarterback AJ McCarron's closest confidants when he hired Tyler Siskey as the Crimson Tide's new associate director of player personnel. Siskey, who helped Ole Miss land one of its best signing classes in school history as its coordinator of recruiting development, was McCarron's offensive coordinator at St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile. "He's riding me some, puts in his little two cents every once in a while," McCarron says. "I just have to remind him his job description sometimes. He's not an on-the-field coach yet."

**PUSH-UP POWER** Like clockwork, freshman tight end OJ Howard will wake up in the middle of the night to see his roommate, running back Derrick Henry, doing push-ups. During an interview on National Signing Day, Henry, who is listed at 6'3" and 238 pounds, says he has been doing it since he was a child. "He's just a freak," Howard says. "I think he's going to do some crazy things this year. He's a guy that works really hard."

**BASH BROTHERS** Alabama offensive linemen Cyrus and Arie Kouandjio didn't fight much as children, but when they did, nothing was safe. The Kouandjio brothers, who could very well comprise the left side of Alabama's offensive line in 2013, combine to weigh 625 pounds. "It was break the walls," Arie said. "Get in trouble and then come back and do it again another day."

**HILL'S POUNDS PLAN** Alabama strength and conditioning coach Scott Cochran probably rubbed his hands together the first time he laid eyes on offensive tackle Brandon Hill, who arrived at Alabama weighing 406 pounds. Within a month, Hill dropped 16 pounds. His goal is to be down to 350 pounds by the time fall camp starts. Maintaining his weight goes beyond what he does on Alabama's time. It's been a team effort with his roommate, 324-pound nose guard Darren Lake. "I see something he's not supposed to eat, I knock it out of his hands. He sees something I'm not supposed to eat, he knocks it out of my hands," Hill said. "We're both on the same page."



DB VINNIE  
SUNSERI



# 2013 SIGNEES

Yes, the rich got richer. Alabama's 2013 class features six 5-stars and 15 4-stars, according to 247Sports.

Alabama got a little bit of everything with this year's 25-man group, and the players who comprised it came from a little bit of everywhere. Five years after Alabama signed 19 in-state players for its class of 2008 — a group that's regarded as one of the best in recent college football history — the Crimson Tide landed 18 out-of-state recruits who hail from 12 different states.

Nick Saban snarled when he was asked why Alabama signed four running backs — a group that includes 5-star recruit Derrick Henry and three 4-stars, Alvin Kamara, Altee Tenpenny and Tyren Jones — when the Crimson Tide was already so deep at the position. "Three of those guys usually play a lot, so I know in your guys' little fantasy football world you put these guys' names down, but there are circumstances," Saban said. "I think a lot of these guys are going to have a good opportunity to contribute next year."

## BREAKDOWN BY POSITION

Linebackers	4
Running Backs	4
Defensive Backs	3
Defensive Linemen	3
Offensive Linemen	3
Athletes	2
Quarterbacks	2
Wide Receivers	2
Long Snappers	1
Tight Ends	1

## BY STATE

Alabama	7
Georgia	3
Florida	2
Louisiana	2
Tennessee	2
Texas	2
Arkansas	1
California	1
Maryland	1
New Jersey	1
Pennsylvania	1
Utah	1
Virginia	1

Another area of need Alabama hammered at was "fast-twitch, pass-rushing, athletic guys," the kind of players who might have helped the Crimson Tide stop Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel. Leading the replenishment is 5-star Jonathan Allen, a defensive end in high school who will likely play Jack linebacker at Alabama.

In-state talents Dee Liner, a defensive lineman, and Reuben Foster, a linebacker, should also help fill this void. The signing of 5-star tight end OJ Howard could pay immediate dividends. Howard brings a new wrinkle to a position of need, whether it be tight end or H-back. Walk-on Kelly Johnson filled the latter in 2012, but wasn't much of a threat to catch passes.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ...

### LB • REUBEN FOSTER • AUBURN, AL

One of the most whirlwind recruitments in recent memory ended with an apology. It came from the highly talented player at the center of it all, 5-star linebacker Reuben Foster, who committed to Alabama and flipped to Auburn before he ultimately landed back with the Crimson Tide.

Foster, who transferred from Troupe County High School in LaGrange, Ga., to Auburn High for his senior season, sent out apologies to the fan bases of Georgia, Auburn and Alabama shortly after he officially signed with the Crimson Tide. "I would hate to think how I would have managed the attention that he got, and a lot of these young people get, when I was 17 or 18 years old," Nick Saban says. "I just don't know if I would have been nearly mature enough to be able to manage it the way sometimes people expect it to be managed."

There's a reason why Foster's signature was so coveted. He played like a man versus boys throughout his high school career, even when he participated in postseason all-star games. His crowning achievement came at the Under Armour All-America Game, where he was named Defensive MVP.

Though 5-star recruits routinely fail to crack the two-deep during their first couple of years at Alabama, Foster has a chance to play right away.

**LB JONATHAN ALLEN** 6-3, 264, LEESBURG, VA  
Five-star player by 247Sports, Rivals and Scout. Played in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. First-team *Parade Magazine* All-American.

**ATH ANTHONY AVERETT** 6-0, 170, WOODBURY, NJ  
Ranked as the No. 22 athlete by ESPN and No. 211 in the ESPN300.

**QB COOPER BATEMAN** 6-3, 215, MURRAY, UT  
Consensus 4-star prospect, ranked as the No. 3 pocket passer by ESPN and the No. 5 pro-style quarterback by 247Sports and Scout.

**OL LEON BROWN** 6-6, 300, RIVERDALE, MD  
A 4-star prospect by ESPN, 247Sports and Scout. Ranked by Scout as the No. 2 of offensive tackle and the No. 8 overall junior college prospect.

**DB JONATHAN COOK** 6-0, 186, DAPHNE, AL  
The nation's No. 13 cornerback according to 247Sports and ranked 145th in the Top247.

**WR RAHEEM FALKINS** 6-4, 195, NEW ORLEANS, LA  
Ranked as the No. 38 wide receiver nationally, No. 13 player in Louisiana by Rivals.

**WR ROBERT FOSTER** 6-3 187 MONACA, PA  
First-team *USA Today* All-American. A 5-star prospect by 247Sports and Scout. The nation's No. 1 wide receiver according to 247Sports.

**LB REUBEN FOSTER** 6-1, 244, AUBURN, AL  
The nation's No. 2 overall player according to Scout and PrepStar; ranked third nationally by MaxPreps.

**RB DERRICK HENRY** 6-3, 238, YULEE, FL  
*Parade* and *USA Today* first-team All-American, and *Parade's* National Player of the Year. Rushed for 12,124 yards in his career, 4,261 yards as a senior in 2012.

**OL BRANDON HILL** 6-7, 390, COLLIERSVILLE, TN  
Spent a season at Hargrave Military Academy. Ranked No. 13 in the Rivals 2013 Prep Top 50.

**OL GRANT HILL** 6-6, 301, HUNTSVILLE, AL  
*USA Today* All-American. Rated the nation's top offensive guard by ESPN and the No. 86 player in the ESPN150.

**TE OJ HOWARD** 6-6, 235, PRATTVILLE, AL  
Rated by Rivals as the nation's top tight end, No. 2 player in Alabama and No. 7 prospect nationally.

**DB EDDIE JACKSON** 6-0, 175, LAUDERDALE LAKES, FL  
No. 5-ranked athlete in the nation according to 247Sports.

**RB TYREN JONES** 5-9, 215, MARIETTA, GA  
Participated in the 2013 U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Ranked 63rd in the ESPN150 and the network's No. 8 running back.

**LB WALKER JONES** 6-2, 234, GERMANTOWN, TN  
Joins older brothers Barrett and Harrison in playing for the Crimson Tide. Rated the No. 8 prospect in Tennessee by CBSSports.

**RB ALVIN KAMARA** 5-10, 19, NORCROSS, GA  
Nation's No. 2 all-purpose back by Rivals and the No. 45 player in the Rivals100.

**DL DEE LINER** 6-3, 281, MUSCLE SHOALS, AL  
First-team *USA Today* All-American. Rated by ESPN as the No. 4 defensive tackle in the nation and ranked No. 26 in the ESPN150.

**LS COLE MAZZA** 6-1, 246, BAKERSFIELD, CA  
The nation's No. 1 long snapper by 247Sports.

**QB PARKER MCLEOD** 6-3, 190, MARIETTA, GA  
Rated the No. 35 pro-style quarterback in the nation by Rivals.

**DL DARIUS PAGE** 6-4, 314, FOLEY, AL  
The fourth-ranked defensive tackle by 247Sports and No. 55 in the Top247.

**DL A'SHAWN ROBINSON** 6-4, 320, FORT WORTH, TX  
Second-team *USA Today* All-American. Played in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. A 5-star prospect by 247Sports, Rivals and Scout.

**DB MAURICE SMITH** 6-0, 180, SUGAR LAND, TX  
Played in the Under Armour All-America Game. Ranked as the No. 5 cornerback in the nation by Scout.

**ATH ARDARIUS STEWART** 6-0, 190, FULTONDALE, AL  
Ranked as the No. 3 athlete nationally by Rivals and No. 66 in the Rivals100.

**RB ALTEE TENPENNY** 6-0, 207, N. LITTLE ROCK, AR  
Consensus No. 1 player in Arkansas. Selected to play in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Ranked by 247Sports as the No. 5 running back in the nation.

**LB TIM WILLIAMS** 6-3, 235, BATON ROUGE, LA  
Selected to play in the Under Armour All-America Game. 36th in the ESPN150 and the No. five defensive end in the nation by ESPN.



# 7 THREATS TO BAMA'S DYNASTY

by Jon Solomon

**I**f it wasn't already, the Sabanization of college football is officially here. The national conversation has changed from how to stop the SEC's dynasty to how to end Alabama's dynasty. Three BCS championships in four years by Nick Saban leave Alabama with a title run that not even Bear Bryant accomplished.

As if to rub salt in everyone else's wounds, Saban then landed his fifth mythical recruiting national championship in six years. Eight of the past 11 No. 1 classes by Rivals.com won a national title within three years.

The recruits continue to sign. The players continue to develop. The crystal balls continue to be raised.

Wash, rinse, repeat.

So what can stop Alabama? There are some potential pitfalls.

## 1. Nick Saban leaves.

Every year Alabama fans read tea leaves and convince themselves that Miss Terry won't let her husband leave Tuscaloosa for another college job, the NFL or a lake house in Georgia.

And every year, Saban slams the door on the NFL more loudly than ever.

"I closed the door," Saban said of the NFL on ESPN Radio's "Mike & Mike in the Morning" in January. "The damn hinges are wore off, dog."

The truth is, Saban has the best job in the world for him. He's a control freak who wants to impact players and not be hamstrung by salary caps and salary egos.

Saban, who spent two years with the Miami Dolphins, could win in the NFL. But he could never win as much as he does at Alabama. Bill Belichick, Saban's buddy, won three Super Bowls in four years and hasn't won another in the eight years since.

NFL teams have multiple front office voices who draft one new player each round. At Alabama, Saban's one voice makes the final call while signing as many talented recruits as he wants — or as the rules allow.

Never say never about coaches leaving. There's too much money, ego and pressure ever to rule it out. But unlike with the Dolphins, Saban's words and actions continue to line up at Alabama.

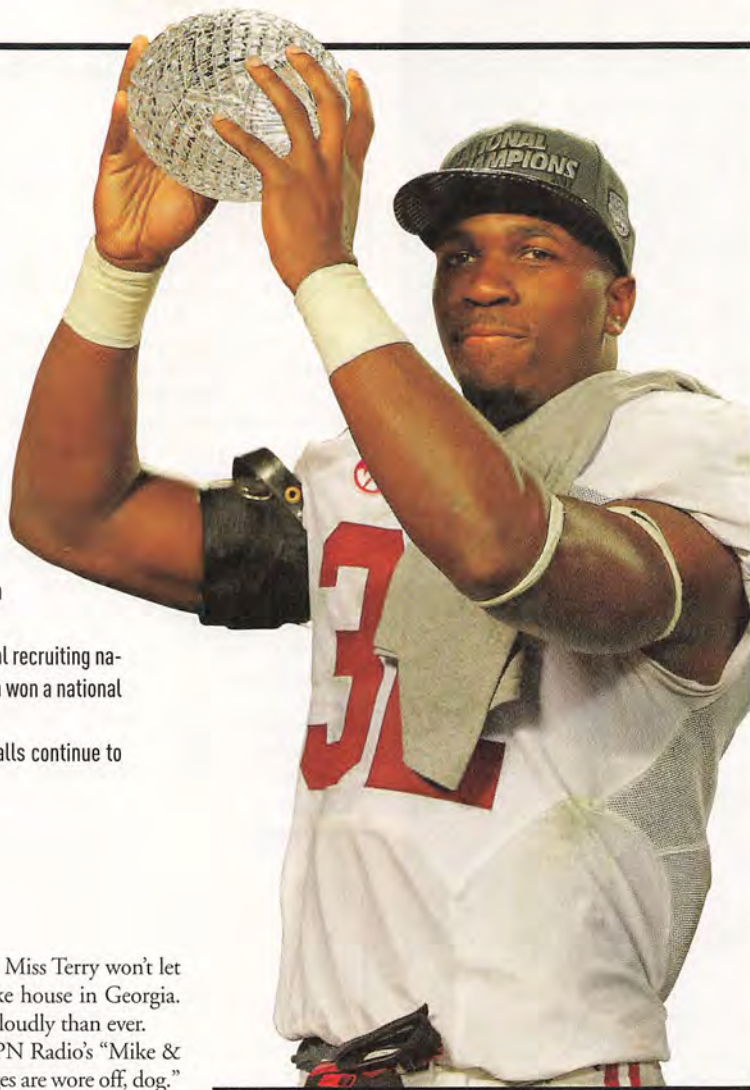
## 2. Complacency

It's the most dangerous obstacle in sports to a team on top. Alabama experienced it in 2010 after its first national title under Saban, turning a talented team (albeit a young one on defense) into a three-loss Capital One Bowl team.

It's always a fight at the top. Every opponent gets fired up for Alabama, leaving no room for feelings of entitlement.

Go ask Florida. The Gators won two BCS titles in three years under Urban Meyer. Then they collapsed to 8-5 in 2010 after Saban destroyed a 2009 Florida team that may have been Meyer's most talented — and most entitled — team in Gainesville.

Go ask USC. Pete Carroll won two national titles and played for a third within three years. In Carroll's final season, USC slipped to 9-4. Today, the program is depleted, partly due to Lane Kiffin and partly because of No. 3 on the dynasty-killer list.



## 3. NCAA penalties

This would be the quickest way for Alabama's dynasty to end. The NCAA would have to hit a program like Alabama hard to have an impact. Imagine Ohio State's postseason ban for lying about tattoos, rather than Alabama's probation for impermissible sale of textbooks.

Forgotten in Alabama's dynasty: The Crimson Tide won its first BCS title while on NCAA probation. In fact, in January 2012, Alabama and LSU staged the first BCS Championship Game in which both teams were on NCAA probation.

This isn't to suggest that Alabama finds itself in danger of being hit by the NCAA. But rival coaches and fans are always on the lookout for players' curious photos, vehicle purchases and living arrangements — especially if those players are on the No. 1 team.







#### 4. SEC challengers

This just in: No SEC coach plans to kneel and kiss Saban's feet. They're paid too much money and are under too much pressure to play for second place.

Texas A&M's Kevin Sumlin beat Saban last year. The Aggies are on the rise with their new SEC brand while Texas is declining, opening up even more talent in their football-rich state.

LSU's Les Miles is 3-4 vs. Saban since 2007. The Tigers may take a step back this year, but Miles takes games personally against Saban, and LSU isn't going anywhere.

South Carolina defensive end Jadeveon Clowney is a once-in-a-generation pass-rusher. What happens to Alabama's dynasty should Clowney dominate the SEC Championship Game, which has essentially become a BCS semifinal?

Georgia's Mark Richt (left) could have been a national champion and the Saban vanquisher right now if not for falling five yards short at last year's SEC Championship Game. Georgia and Florida — where Saban protégé Will Muschamp resides — both acquire enough talent annually to challenge Alabama in Atlanta.

Sign of the times on how the SEC won't cave to Saban: James Franklin of Vanderbilt — Vanderbilt! — vowed to outwork "Nicky Satan."

#### 5. No-huddle offenses

Tempo is the name of the game now in some SEC circles. Saban hates the no-huddle, because it impacts his substitutions over the course of lengthy drives. Alabama mixes and matches defensive personnel based on down and distance as if it were an NFL team.

Days after facing Ole Miss' up-tempo offense last season, Saban questioned how fast college football should allow the game to go for player safety.

"It's obviously created a tremendous advantage for the offense when teams are scoring 70 points and we're averaging 49.5 points a game," Saban said. "With people that do those kinds of things, more and more people are going to do it. I just think there's got to be some sense of fairness in terms of asking, is this what we want football to be?"

"Yes!" shout many coaches challenging Saban.

Texas A&M shredded Alabama with tempo last season. Gus Malzahn rejoins Auburn, after giving Saban fits in 2009 and 2010. Even Hugh Freeze's no-huddle offense produced Ole Miss scoring drives of 13 and 16 plays against Alabama last year.

#### 6. Mobile quarterbacks

Quick: Name the past six quarterbacks to beat Alabama.

Florida's Tim Tebow. Utah's Brian Johnson. LSU's Jordan Jefferson (twice). South Carolina's Stephen Garcia. Auburn's Cam Newton. Texas A&M's Johnny Manziel.

They have one trait in common: Mobility. Some were more elusive than others. Almost all of them could make plays with their feet, either to move the chains on designed runs or to escape pressure for a scramble or throw downfield.

Manziel befuddled Alabama last year with his arm and legs, amassing 92 yards rushing. Think Saban and defensive coordinator Kirby Smart spent the offseason watching film for the Sept. 14 rematch in College Station?



#### 7. Luck runs out

Alabama may have dominated its three BCS Championship Game victories, but it did lose one game in two of those three seasons.

In 2011, if Oklahoma State hadn't lost to Iowa State, if Boise State hadn't missed a field goal against TCU, if Oregon hadn't scheduled (and lost to) LSU, or if Stanford hadn't fallen to Oregon, Alabama wouldn't have played for the BCS title. In 2012, if Stanford hadn't upset Oregon or if Baylor hadn't stunned Kansas State, Alabama would have stayed home.

The BCS is around only one more year before a four-team playoff arrives with the whims of a selection committee instead of computers and polls. The SEC is already wondering aloud what happens if an elite team loses in the SEC Championship Game, positioning itself for the chance to have two teams in the playoff.

Dynasties are constructed with that type of forward thinking. Eventually, though, they always end.

Sometimes you never see it coming.





# ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS

NATIONAL FORECAST: 49 // SEC WEST PREDICTION: 7

**A**rkansas' implosion, brought about by Bobby Petrino's affair and highly publicized April Fool's Day motorcycle accident, sent the 2012 season into a self-inflicted spiral and brought about the surprise hiring of Bret Bielema and a virtually all-new coaching staff. The change in leadership coincided with the second consecutive year of substantial losses of key offensive personnel — quarterback Tyler Wilson, wideout Cobi Hamilton, tight end Chris Gragg and backs Dennis Johnson and Knile Davis — creating a double-whammy for the Razorbacks. Arkansas is now undergoing an overhaul in schemes at a time when everyone else in the SEC West, home of the last four BCS national champions, appears to be on the rise. The Razorbacks face a brutal SEC slate, with road games at Florida, Alabama, LSU and Ole Miss, and they also have to travel to Rutgers, which beat them by nine points in 2012.

Bielema insists his team will be ready for the challenge.

"We have 21 seniors who are angry, frustrated, upset with the way things went and believe they have a higher spot in the world of college football," Bielema says. "I told them, 'Hey, we are Rocky, man. Nobody really thinks a lot of us right now. We're on the bottom, fighting our way up and we are going to enjoy every minute of it.'"

Arkansas' drastic personality change has begun. The retrofit to a beefier, Bielema-style drive-blocking unit took infant steps in winter conditioning and spring drills, and the Razorbacks hope to be in position to play what their new coach calls "big-boy football" in the fall. It won't be easy for a team that relied heavily on the pass and was mediocre at best on defense during the Petrino era.

Two areas where the Hogs expect immediate improvements are turnover margin — where Arkansas tied for No. 118 nationally (minus-19) last year — and penalties, which have been staples of Bielema-coached teams.

The Razorbacks have question marks in too many areas to be considered a contender, and they are more likely to be picked at the bottom of the SEC West than in the middle. Having three head coaches in an eight-month span in the aftermath of the Petrino scandal has seemingly sidetracked a program that passed its way into the top 10 for a couple of seasons. Expecting a well-oiled transition to a stronger drive-blocking running game would be unreasonable.

In a best-case scenario, quality blockers emerge across the board, quarterback play is efficient, the running game is unleashed and playmakers rise up on all three levels on defense. Even if several of those scenarios take place, the Razorbacks have a long trip back to SEC West contention. Arkansas hopes to shorten games with its running attack, thereby putting less pressure on its defense. The rugged schedule and roster shortcomings will result in a rebuilding year in Fayetteville.

**QUARTERBACKS** Sophomore Brandon Allen exited spring drills with an edge for the starting quarterback job over senior Brandon Mitchell, who spent almost all of 2012 at receiver. Allen completed a higher percentage of throws in the spring and demonstrated better rhythm in the new offense coordinated by Jim Chaney. Neither one of the two performed well in brief stints last season, mostly in a 52-0 loss to Alabama, but with the starting job within their grasp and another offseason under their belts, their play is expected to be much improved in the fall. Two transfers, A.J. Derby (Iowa) and Taylor Reed (Memphis), were among the group also angling for playing time in the spring, though neither player pushed his way into the mix. Signees Austin Allen, Brandon's brother, and Damon Mitchell will join the position battle in the fall.

**RUNNING BACKS** Jonathan Williams looks to assume the lead tailback role — a high-rep position in the new system — but support is needed and expected from big back Kody Walker, swift Nate Holmes and blue-chip signee Alex Collins. Williams, who rushed for 231 yards on a solid 5.1-yard average, is responsible for 90 percent of the Hogs' returning rushing production. He has a tendency to run high, and he had a couple of fumbles in limited duty last season. But he's focused on lowering his pads, and his vision, instincts and toughness are all plus attributes. Holmes is the fastest Ra-

## 2013 SCHEDULE

### AUGUST

31 UL Lafayette

### SEPTEMBER

7 vs. Samford #

14 Southern Miss

21 at Rutgers

28 Texas A&M

### OCTOBER

5 at Florida

12 South Carolina

19 at Alabama

### NOVEMBER

2 Auburn

9 at Ole Miss

23 vs. Mississippi State #

30 at LSU

#Little Rock, AR



TEVIN MITCHEL

## THE VERDICT

### 2013 PROJECTION: 5-7, 1-7 SEC

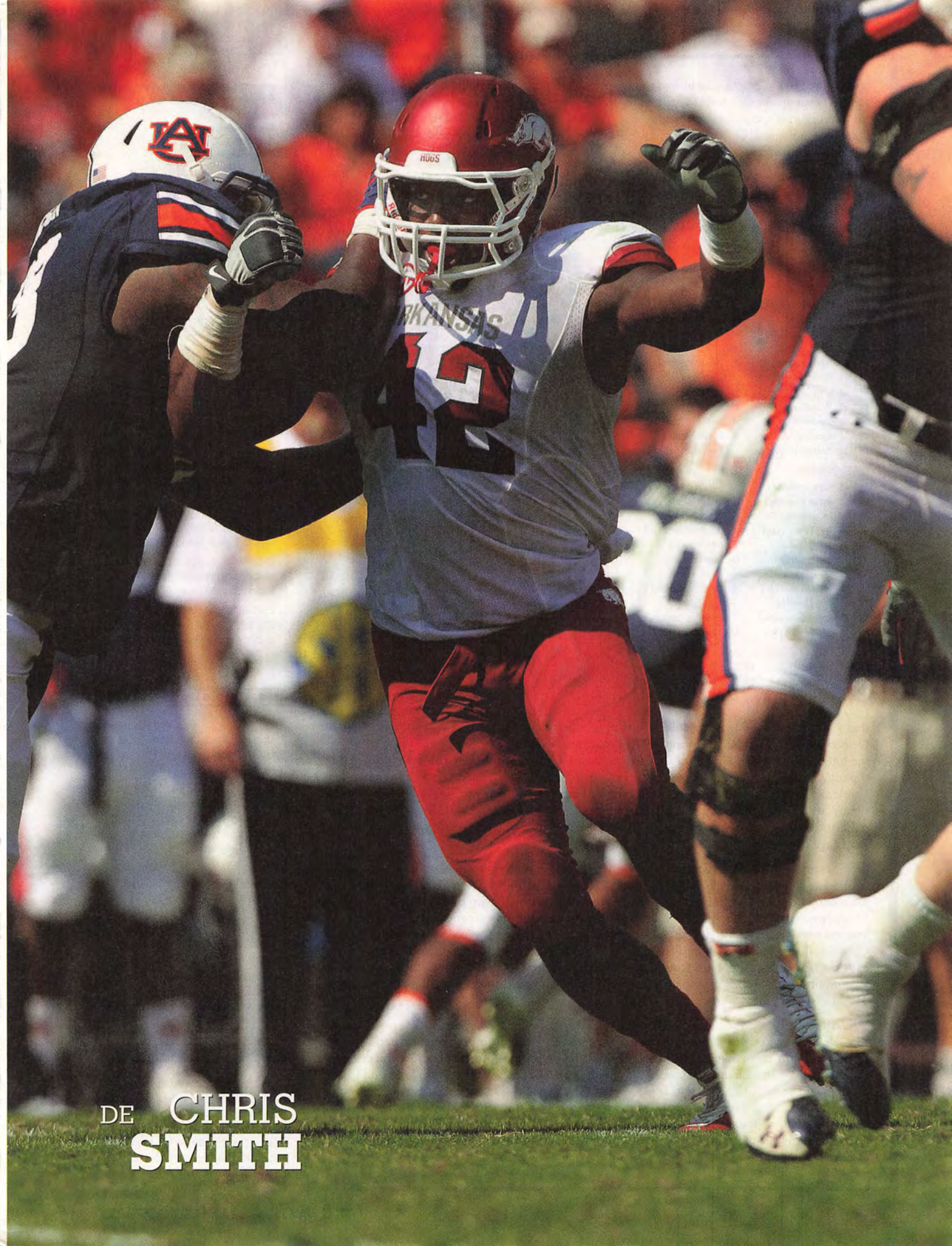
Coaching uncertainty was a huge factor in Arkansas' struggles in 2012, but that won't be an issue this year. Bret Bielema was hired away from Wisconsin and has pieced together an impressive staff. Bielema has a lot of work ahead of him in 2013, as the Razorbacks will be fighting to avoid the SEC West cellar. The offense has major question marks, starting at quarterback with Brandon Allen. There's also a lack of proven playmakers at running back and wide receiver. The defense returns seven healthy starters, but this unit ranked 12th in the SEC in both points and yards allowed last season. The Razorbacks will be rebuilding in 2013.

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Smith: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Mitchell: Bruce Schwartzman





DE CHRIS  
**SMITH**



zorback, but he's also light, and he had trouble reaching the second level in the spring. The coaching staff will experiment with ways to get him the ball in space. Bruising fullback Kiero Small is back for his second run at a senior season after he missed the final 11 games in 2012 with a foot injury. Small is an outstanding lead blocker and a vocal leader in the locker room. He also serves as the tailback in the Hogs' jumbo set.

**RECEIVERS** Arkansas receivers have been among the most productive in college football in recent years. Now, however, this group will have to learn to cope with fewer balls in the air. Chaney loves the forward pass — take a look at the numbers from his offenses at Tennessee the past few years — but the head coach favors a strong running game

## DEPTH CHART

### OFFENSE (3)

WR	19	Javonte Herndon (Sr.)	2	Julian Horton (Sr.)
WR	81	Demetrius Wilson (Sr.)	82	Mekale McKay (So.)
LT	69	David Hurd (Sr.)		Dan Skipper (Fr.)
LG	74	Brey Cook (Jr.)		Denver Kirkland (Fr.)
C	64	Travis Swanson (Sr.)	75	Luke Charpentier (Jr.)
RG	65	Mitch Smothers (So.)		Reeve Koehler (Fr.)
RT	50	Grady Ollison (So.)	68	Austin Beck (So.)
TE	89	Mitchell Lowen (So.)	87	Austin Tate (Sr.)
QB	10	Brandon Allen (So.)	17	Brandon Mitchell (Sr.)
FB	36	Kiero Small (Sr.)	33	Patrick Arinze (Jr.)
TB	32	Jonathan Williams (So.)		Alex Collins (Fr.)

### DEFENSE (7)

DE	42	Chris Smith (Sr.)	6	JaMichael Winston (Fr.)
DT	54	Byran Jones (Sr.)	93	DeMarcus Hodge (So.)
DT	98	Robert Thomas (Sr.)	91	Darius Philon (Fr.)
DE	86	Trey Flowers (Jr.)	48	Deatrich Wise Jr. (So.)
OLB	39	Jarrett Lake (Sr.)	5	Otha Peters (So.)
MLB	24	Daunte Carr (Jr.)	44	Robert Atiga (Sr.)
OLB	34	Brayton Mitchell (Jr.)	52	Austin Jones (Sr.)
CB	8	Tevin Mitchell (Jr.)	21	Carroll Washington (Jr.)
CB	9	Will Hines (So.)	29	Jared Collins (Fr.)
SS	26	Rohan Gaines (So.)	7	Tiquention Coleman (Jr.)
FS	14	Eric Bennett (Sr.)	27	Alan Turner (Jr.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	18	Zach Hocker (Sr.)	KR	22	Nate Holmes (So.)
P	18	Zach Hocker (Sr.)	PR	22	Nate Holmes (So.)



31

Arkansas committed 31 turnovers in 2012 to tie for 111th in the nation in that category. The Hogs tied for 118th in turnover margin (minus-1.58 per game).

that sets up an efficient passing attack. Seniors Javonte Herndon, Demetrius Wilson and Julian Horton have the credentials to become the top pass-catchers in 2013. But the Hogs also have a young wave of promising athletes, led by sophomores Mekale McKay, Keon Hatcher and D'Arthur Cowan and redshirt freshman Eric Hawkins. The coaches believe signees Melvinson Hartfield and Drew Morgan can be very good in time. Austin Tate is the veteran in a batch of tight ends that includes heralded signee Hunter Henry, redshirt freshman Jeremy Sprinkle and well-regarded walk-ons Mitchell Loewen, Alex Voelzke and Brad Taylor.

**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** Senior Travis Swanson is back at center, a huge asset for the evolving offensive line, but the rest of the unit is still a work in progress. Former walk-on David Hurd could start for a second consecutive year at left tackle, joined in the starting lineup by guards Brey Cook and Mitch Smothers, tackle Grady Ollison and Swanson. However, the Hogs signed some highly regarded linemen, and Denver Kirkland, Dan Skipper, Reeve Koehler and junior college transfer Johnathan McClure are all expected to push for playing time. Swanson is a Rimington Trophy-caliber center, perhaps the best Bielema has been around in his career, but the Razorbacks must achieve a moderate amount of success in their drive-blocking in order for the power running game to operate properly. The line's development is crucial.

**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** Arkansas was perpetually understaffed on defense the last several seasons, so a rebuild isn't likely to happen overnight. However, a significant improvement could be in the works for a unit that ranked 73rd nationally in 2012 (409.9 ypg), mainly because the defensive front is loaded with veterans who have already produced in the SEC. Tackles Byran Jones and Robert Thomas and ends Chris Smith and Trey Flowers all have quality starting experience, which should give Arkansas a chance to drum up quarterback pressure with a four-man rush. That, in turn, will help the secondary. Youngsters Darius Philon and DeMarcus Hodge showed the ability to be prime reserves at the tackle spots, while JaMichael Winston and Deatrich Wise Jr. look to be the top backup defensive ends.

## TEAM INFORMATION

### HEAD COACH

Bret Bielema

### RECORD AT SCHOOL

First Season

### CAREER RECORD

68-24 (7 years)

### OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Jim Chaney

### DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Chris Ash

### LOCATION

Fayetteville, AR

### STADIUM

Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium (72,000)

## KEY RAZORBACKS

**Travis Swanson, C** The 2012 offensive captain should be in the mix for the Rimington Trophy. Earned second-team All-SEC honors last season.

**Byran Jones, DT** A 29-game starter, the 310-pound Jones will anchor a front that should be the strength of the Razorbacks' defense.

**Chris Smith, DE** Recorded 9.5 sacks last year, and his 13 tackles for a loss were seventh-highest in Arkansas history

**Zach Hocker, K** Valuable piece of the special teams puzzle might add punting duties to his résumé in 2013.

**Eric Bennett, S** The Hogs need this veteran safety to bounce back strongly after an injury-plagued junior season.

## KEY LOSSES

**Tyler Wilson, QB** Didn't have the monster senior season that he envisioned, but his 7,765 yards passing and 27 school records will be missed.

**Cobi Hamilton, WR** His 90 receptions and 1,335 yards receiving were both single-season school records. Set a single-game school record with 303 yards against Rutgers in 2012.

**Dennis Johnson, RB/KR** Razorbacks' leading rusher in 2012 (757 yards) ended his career ninth all-time in the SEC with 5,330 all-purpose yards.

**Alvin Bailey, G** Strong interior blocker started all 38 games of his career. Left school with one season of eligibility remaining.

**Ross Rasner, S** Veteran had team-high 92 tackles, three interceptions and seven pass breakups.

## RISING STAR

**Jonathan Williams** will step into a coveted position — lead ball-carrier in a Bret Bielema offense. A 4-star recruit from Allen, Texas, Williams ran for 231 yards last year in a supporting role as a true freshman. Don't be surprised if he rushes for 1,000 yards this fall.





## 2013 ARKANSAS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
10 Allen, Brandon	6-3/214	So.	Fayetteville, AR
16 Buehner, Brian	5-11/197	Jr.	Louisville, KY
11 Derby, A.J.	6-5/241	Jr.	Iowa City, IA
18 McElroy, Davis	6-4/215	So.	Lee's Summit, MO
17 Mitchell, Brandon	6-4/239	Sr.	Amite, LA
13 Reed, Taylor	6-3/210	So.	El Dorado, AR

RUNNING BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
33 Arinze, Patrick	5-10/254	Jr.	La Mesa, CA
44 Evans, Easton	5-9/265	Jr.	Waco, TX
22 Holmes, Nate	6-1/176	So.	Port Arthur, TX
30 Lee, Clinton	6-0/212	So.	Amarillo, TX
35 Linton, Morgan	5-11/263	Jr.	Lonoke, AR
42 Ryan, Devin	5-10/217	Fr.	Flower Mound, TX
36 Small, Kiero	5-10/246	Sr.	Baltimore, MD
21 Turner, Kerric	5-10/208	Fr.	Jacksonville, AR
24 Walker, Kody	6-2/244	So.	Jefferson City, MO
32 Williams, Jonathan	6-0/220	So.	Allen, TX
25 Wynn, Jojo	5-9/200	Fr.	Darien, GA

RECEIVERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
26 Cacciarelli, Alex	6-0/187	Jr.	Brentwood, MO
6 Cowan, D'Arthur	6-3/187	So.	Olive Branch, MS
4 Hatcher, Keon	6-2/208	So.	Owasso, OK
5 Hawkins, Eric	6-0/183	Fr.	Longview, TX
19 Herndon, Javontee	6-1/194	Sr.	Jacksonville, FL
2 Horton, Julian	6-1/202	Sr.	Norcross, GA
82 McKay, Mekale	6-6/195	So.	Louisville, KY
15 Minor, Keante	6-0/225	Jr.	East St. Louis, IL
29 Saunders, Chris	5-11/188	Fr.	Dallas, TX
23 Thurman, Scotty	5-11/173	Fr.	Fayetteville, AR
81 Wilson, Demetrius	6-3/181	Sr.	Glendale, AZ

TIGHT ENDS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
85 Dean, Demetrius	6-3/270	So.	Fayetteville, AR
89 Loewen, Mitchell	6-4/265	So.	Lahaina, HI
83 Sprinkle, Jeremy	6-6/231	Fr.	White Hall, AR
87 Tate, Austin	6-6/266	Sr.	Harrison, AR
86 Taylor, Brad	6-4/243	Sr.	Springdale, AR
46 Voelzke, Alex	6-6/247	So.	Longview, TX

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
68 Beck, Austin	6-7/296	So.	Nowata, OK
79 Benton, Ben	6-5/300	Fr.	Memphis, TN
72 Boyd, Cordale	6-3/311	Fr.	Memphis, TN
75 Charpentier, Luke	6-4/312	Jr.	River Ridge, LA
74 Cook, Brey	6-7/318	Jr.	Springdale, AR
59 Danenhauer, Marcus	6-5/300	So.	Bentonville, AR
66 Deacon, Adam	6-1/310	So.	Little Rock, AR
58 Gervasi, Ray	6-2/339	Jr.	Orinda, CA
61 Gray, Ryan	6-2/290	Fr.	Mahopac, NY
69 Hurd, David	6-6/309	Sr.	West Monroe, LA
78 McClure, Johnathan	6-4/321	Jr.	Wichita, KS
63 Morris, R.J.	6-4/305	Fr.	Naperville, IL
50 Ollison, Grady	6-5/274	So.	Malvern, AR
65 Smothers, Mitch	6-4/313	So.	Springdale, AR

70 Stringer, Chris	6-7/318	Jr.	Rancho Cucamonga, CA
64 Swanson, Travis	6-5/314	Sr.	Kingwood, TX
73 Ward, Jeremy	6-4/282	Fr.	Pottsville, AR

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
95 Arkadie, Horace	6-4/278	So.	Irving, TX
84 Boris, Nick	6-2/233	So.	Cabot, AR
86 Flowers, Trey	6-4/256	Jr.	Huntsville, AL
93 Hodge, DeMarcus	6-1/340	So.	Monroe, LA
94 Johnson, Taiwan	6-3/255	Fr.	Manvel, TX
54 Jones, Byran	6-2/310	Sr.	Junction City, AR
97 Kelly-Thomas, Darrell	6-4/238	So.	Lufkin, TX
89 Lewis, Brandon	6-5/258	Fr.	Memphis, TN
92 Matthews, John	6-2/312	So.	Osceola, AR
91 Philon, Darius	6-3/284	Fr.	Mobile, AL
42 Smith, Chris	6-3/266	Sr.	Mount Ulla, NC
98 Thomas, Robert	6-3/318	Sr.	Muskogee, OK
6 Winston, JaMichael	6-5/254	Fr.	Mobile, AL
48 Wise Jr., Deatrich	6-6/265	So.	Carrollton, TX

LINEBACKERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
44 Atiga, Robert	6-3/237	Sr.	West Valley City, UT
62 Bowers, Devin	6-1/230	So.	Fayetteville, AR
24 Carr, Daunte	6-3/229	Jr.	Gainesville, GA
52 Jones, Austin	6-2/230	Sr.	Dallas, TX
39 Lake, Jarrett	6-3/220	Sr.	Jenks, OK
34 Mitchell, Braylon	6-3/229	Jr.	Heber Springs, AR
5 Peters, Otha	6-2/232	So.	Covington, LA
45 Tavarres, Myke	6-2/221	Jr.	Lake Oswego, OR
57 Thomas-Smith, N.	5-10/225	Fr.	Chesterfield, MO
31 Turner, A.J.	6-2/208	So.	Lepanto, AR

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
17 Baggett, Dakota	5-8/164	So.	Bentonville, AR
14 Bennett, Eric	6-0/191	Sr.	Tulsa, OK
28 Buchanan Jr., Ray	5-11/187	Fr.	Suwanee, GA
7 Coleman, Tiquention	5-10/198	Jr.	Mauldin, SC
29 Collins, Jared	6-0/169	Fr.	Tulsa, OK
4 Fisher Jr., Kelvin	5-11/200	So.	Queen Creek, AZ
26 Gaines, Rohan	5-11/190	So.	Bainbridge, GA
9 Hines, Will	6-1/191	So.	Waco, TX
16 Holmes, Price	6-3/213	Sr.	Batesville, AR
13 McKinney, Davyon	6-3/195	So.	Forrest City, AR
8 Mitchel, Tevin	6-0/181	Jr.	Mansfield, TX
38 Mitchell, Jerry	6-1/219	Sr.	Mandeville, LA
27 Turner, Alan	6-0/198	Jr.	Junction City, AR
21 Washington, Carroll	6-0/182	Jr.	Baltimore, MD

SPECIALISTS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
37 Baker, Toby (P)	6-3/193	Fr.	Memphis, TN
53 D'Appollonio, Alan (LS)	6-0/221	Jr.	Phoenix, AZ
55 Emrich, Matt (LS)	6-3/186	Fr.	El Dorado, AR
32 Gorton, Drew (LS)	6-0/196	So.	Fayetteville, AR
43 Henson, John (K)	5-11/165	Jr.	Southlake, TX
18 Hocker, Zach (K/P)	6-0/182	Sr.	Russellville, AR
48 McFain, Adam (K)	6-0/174	Fr.	Greenwood, AR

## 2012 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8, 2-6 (SEC)

Sept. 1	Jacksonville State	W	49-24
Sept. 8	vs. ULM %	(ot) L	31-34
Sept. 15	Alabama	L	0-52
Sept. 22	Rutgers	L	26-35
Sept. 29	at Texas A&M	L	10-58
Oct. 6	at Auburn	W	24-7
Oct. 13	Kentucky	W	49-7
Oct. 27	vs. Ole Miss %	L	27-30
Nov. 3	Tulsa	W	19-15
Nov. 10	at South Carolina	L	20-38
Nov. 17	at Mississippi State	L	14-45
Nov. 23	LSU	L	13-20

%Little Rock



BYRAN JONES

## 2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Tyler Wilson	401	249	3,387	21	13
Brandon Allen	49	21	186	1	3
Brandon Mitchell	8	2	45	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Dennis Johnson	137	757	5.5	8
Knile Davis	112	377	3.4	2
Jonathan Williams	45	231	5.1	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Cobi Hamilton	90	1,335	14.8	5
Dennis Johnson	25	160	6.4	2
Chris Gragg	22	289	13.1	3
Mekale McKay	21	317	15.1	2
Javontee Herndon	21	304	14.5	3

**KICKING:** Zach Hocker, 11-18 FGs, 32-32 XPs, 65 points

**TACKLES:** Ross Rasner, 92; Rohan Gaines, 75

**SACKS:** Chris Smith, 9.5

**INTERCEPTIONS:** Ross Rasner, 3

Returning Players in Bold

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	23.5 ppg	12	89
Rushing	118.7 ypg	14	104
Passing	301.5 ypg	3	21
Total	420.2 ypg	6	49

Defense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	30.4 ppg	12	81
Rushing	124.1 ypg	5	19
Passing	285.8 ypg	14	113
Total	409.9 ypg	12	73

TD Margin	Per Game	SEC	National
-19	-1.58	14	118

## SCOUTING THE RAZORBACKS

### OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP ARKANSAS

"They are going to be terrible. What they are doing now, it's the product of bad recruiting. They have a long way to go. That's nothing against the new coach (Bret Bielema). But they are going to be terrible in Year 1. They are really going to struggle. What happened was they had eight starters who got injured, and they were fighting an uphill battle all of last year. I think they'll struggle up front, they'll struggle in the secondary, the linebackers should be average. ... They are going to be slim in a lot of spots. It's going to take them three years to get a good foundation. It's a product of bad recruiting — which is typical of a Bobby Petrino school. It's the same thing that happened at Louisville that got Steve Kragthorpe fired. Petrino didn't leave him any players. It's the same thing at Arkansas. They have no players on defense. Petrino would load up on offense and leave the cupboard bare. That's why he can't ever get over the hump. ... If you want to be competitive in the SEC, you better have big, strong defensive linemen, physical guys, and lock-down corners. If you don't have that, you don't have a chance. And right now they don't have that. ... I don't know really how good they are up front offensively, but I'm kind of skeptical based on what I know. ... I think the young running back, Jonathan Williams, is going to be good for them. We liked him out of high school."



**LINEBACKERS** A.J. Turner and Otha Peters, two of the veteran linebackers, were slowed by injuries in the spring. Senior Jarrett Lake caught linebacker position coach Randy Shannon's eye and could be a leader on a unit that lacks experience. Myke Tavarres, a junior college signee who enrolled in school in January, is an impressive athlete, but he must study the playbook over the summer after falling behind in the spring. Freshman signee Brooks Ellis and junior college transfer Martrell Spaight should have an impact when they arrive. Braylon Mitchell, Robert Atiga, Austin Jones and Daunte Carr should vie for time as well.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** Four starters return in the secondary — safeties Eric Bennett and Rohan Gaines, the leading returning tackler with 75, and corners Tevin Mitchel and Will Hines. The Razorbacks must get better on the back end, however, and junior college transfers Carroll Washington and Tiquention Coleman should help. Redshirt freshman corner Jared Collins had a solid spring and got some work with the starters.

**SPECIALISTS** Zach Hocker is back after a down season in which he made only 11-of-18 field goals. Hocker is an ace kick-off specialist — he led the FBS with 64.7 yards per kickoff and ranked sixth with a touchback percentage of .672. He might wind up as the punter. Holmes is the most likely punt returner, while the kickoff return specialists will be determined in fall camp.

## OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

**TOUGH GUYS** After the Razorbacks began donning pads in the spring, they would typically open practice with the "Hog" drill, a lengthy period of one-on-one battles to help instill toughness and get the juices flowing. Coach Bret Bielema made the Hog drill assignments himself.

**DISCIPLINE** As a way to begin the process of cutting down on penalties, the Razorbacks were made to adhere to a Bielema rule in the spring: Pre-snap penalty violators come out of the practice immediately and begin a series of up-downs.

**YAC ATTACK** Running backs coach Joel Thomas says tailback Jonathan Williams accounted for 47 of his 92 rushing yards after contact in the team's longest spring scrimmage. Thomas has a goal for his backs of averaging 3.0 yards per carry after contact, and Williams nearly hit that mark with 2.9 yards after contact on his 16 carries that day.

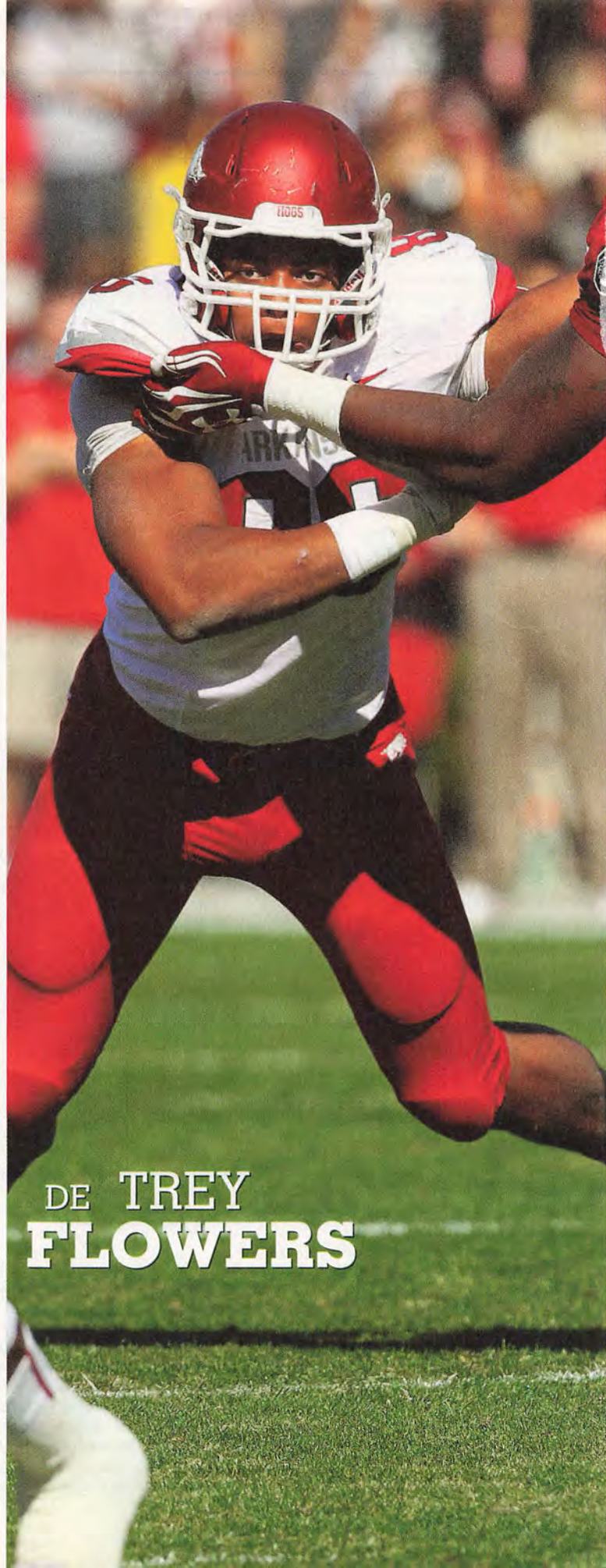
**BATTLING BRET** Bielema, who is not afraid to mix it up with anonymous critics on Twitter, showed his feistiness with a swipe at former Arkansas coach Bobby Petrino. On April Fool's Day — the one-year anniversary of Petrino's infamous motorcycle wreck that led to the exposure of his affair and his firing — Bielema tweeted that he was "only driving his car" that day.

**MUSIC MON** During the warm-up period prior to Arkansas' second scrimmage, which was open to fans, a portable sound system began blasting reggae music, a noted favorite of Bielema. As it turned out, Bielema had a manager run to his office and grab his iPod in a spur-of-the-moment move just minutes before the scrimmage.

**LIMITED ACCESS** Bielema kept the viewings to a minimum in his first spring at the helm. Media members were allowed to view three full Saturday workouts that included scrimmage time, as well as the Red-White Spring Game, and the public had access to just one Saturday scrimmage and the Spring Game.

**MYKE'S LIKES** Myke Tavarres, an animated junior college transfer, did not hide his excitement upon hearing that Arkansas had secured Randy Shannon, the long-time University of Miami assistant and head coach, to handle the linebackers. "Man, as soon as they said, 'Hey, Coach Shannon's here,' I kind of like freaked out like a little girl," Tavarres says. "I was like, 'Oh my God, Shannon! He coached Ray Lewis. Yes!' I was so excited." Shannon grinned when told of Tavarres' reaction. "Myke is trying to get some brownie points," he chuckled. "But Myke is a great kid."

**SUPER JUMBO** The Razorbacks offense was inconsistent moving the ball the length of the field in open practices, but they cashed in during goal line work. Kiero Small, the 246-pound fullback who missed all but one game in 2012, was a big part of that short-yardage success, most of the time as a lead blocker. However, Small also smashed in as a tailback for a four-yard score, running behind 254-pound walk-on Patrick Arinze in a three-tight end set.



DE TREY  
FLOWERS





## 2013 SIGNEES

The biggest headline from Arkansas' signing class was the haul of big offensive linemen, including freshmen Denver Kirkland, Dan Skipper and Reeve Koehler, to usher in the bruising running style preferred by coach Bret Bielema. The second headline: Arkansas landed a blue-chip back in Alex Collins to charge through the blockers.

The Razorbacks' 23-man signing class ranked among the worst in the SEC by most recruiting sites, but the first class for Bielema and his staff gave a clear indication that protecting the state borders and bulking up on both sides of the ball is the M.O. for the Hogs.

Arkansas landed most of the best in-state prospects, signing seven prep players and an eighth, linebacker Martrell Spaight, out of junior college. The in-state haul included a trio of Fayetteville High products, among them quarterback Austin Allen and linebacker Brooks

Ellis. Allen, a two-time Class 7A state championship game MVP, is the son of 15-year Arkansas assistant coach Bobby Allen, now the program's director of high school relations, and the brother of fellow Razorbacks quarterback Brandon Allen. Ellis, a two-time state Defensive Player of the Year, and Spaight are expected to crack the linebacker rotation in the fall.

Tight end Hunter Henry of Little Rock, a *Parade* All-American, was wooed by some of the nation's top programs but stuck with the home-state Hogs.

Junior college signees Spaight, linebacker Myke Tavarres, cornerback Carroll Washington and safety Tiquention Coleman could each earn a spot on the two-deep in the fall.

Recruiting contacts in South Florida by assistants Charlie Partridge and Randy Shannon, as well

as Bielema, helped the Razorbacks land four prospects from that portion of the Sunshine State, with safety De'Andre Coley and defensive tackle Ke'Tyrus Marks joining Collins and Kirkland.

### SPOTLIGHT ON ...

#### QB • AUSTIN ALLEN • FAYETTEVILLE, AR

Arkansas quarterback signee Austin Allen didn't need too big of a recruiting pitch to sign with the Razorbacks. His father Bobby is the longest-tenured Arkansas assistant — dating back to the days of Frank Broyles — and his brother Brandon was already a quarterback on the Razorbacks' roster, so it made sense for the younger Allen to step across the street from Fayetteville High School, where he led the Bulldogs to back-to-back Class 7A state titles, to the Arkansas campus to keep things all in the family.

"I've grown up with the Razorbacks my whole life, so once they offered me that was tough to pass up," Austin said on Signing Day.

The Arkansas Gatorade Player of the Year in 2012, Allen was the prep version of prolific Hog quarterback Tyler Wilson, as he passed for more than 7,700 yards and 75 touchdowns in two seasons as the starter. The quarterback he replaced at Fayetteville High is now one of the guys he'll be trying to beat out in the fall — his brother.

"I learned a lot in high school when he was a senior and I was a sophomore," Allen says. "I feel like that's why I was such a good quarterback, honestly, just learning behind him. I can't wait to get up there and compete against him and all the other quarterbacks also."

### BREAKDOWN BY POSITION

Defensive Backs	6
Offensive Linemen	4
Linebackers	3
Defensive Linemen	2
Quarterbacks	2
Running Backs	2
Wide Receivers	2
Punters	1
Tight Ends	1

### BY STATE

Arkansas	8
Florida	4
Texas	3
Australia	1
Colorado	1
Hawaii	1
Kansas	1
Maryland	1
New Jersey	1
Oregon	1
South Carolina	1

**QB AUSTIN ALLEN** 6-2, 210, FAYETTEVILLE, AR  
Arkansas' 2012 Gatorade Player of the Year. The 17th-ranked pro-style quarterback in the country and No. 3 player in Arkansas by 247Sports.

**DE TEVIN BEANUM** 6-3, 295, FORREST CITY, AR  
Ranked as the No. 8 player in Arkansas by Rivals and the No. 9 player in the state by 247Sports.

**S ALEX BRIGNONI** 6-1, 200, FAYETTEVILLE, AR  
Ranked as the No. 5 player in Arkansas by Rivals and 247Sports. Helped Fayetteville HS to back-to-back Class 7A state titles.

**S DE'ANDRE COLEY** 6-1, 178, MIAMI, FL  
Ranked as the No. 52 safety in the nation by ESPN.

**S TIQUENTION COLEMAN** 5-10, 195, MAULDIN, SC  
Ranked as the No. 10 junior college safety in the country by 247Sports after starting every game in his two seasons at Georgia Military College.

**RB ALEX COLLINS** 5-11, 207, FT. LAUDERDALE, FL  
Ranked as the No. 1 running back in the country, No. 5 prospect in Florida and No. 17 overall in the nation by 247Sports. Rushed for 1,400 yards and 14 touchdowns as a senior despite missing three games.

**CB D.J. DEAN** 5-10, 180, NEWTON, TX  
As a senior, had 34 tackles, four interceptions and one forced fumble and also passed for 1,062 yards and 11 TDs while rushing for 1,014 yards and 20 TDs.

**LB BROOKS ELLIS** 6-2, 215, FAYETTEVILLE, AR  
Ranked as the No. 4 player in Arkansas by Rivals and 247Sports, and was rated 24th in the country at his position by 247Sports and 42nd by Rivals.

**RB DENZELL EVANS** 6-0, 205, HOUSTON, TX  
Three-year starter at Bellaire HS, rushing for 2,350 yards and 26 TDs in his career.

**WR MELVINSON HARTFIELD** 5-11, 183, DALLAS, TX  
Played both sides of the ball for South Oak Cliff HS. In his senior year, he led a defense that allowed an average of 10.4 points per game.

**TE HUNTER HENRY** 6-5, 238, LITTLE ROCK, AR  
Rated as the No. 1 tight end in the nation by Tom Lemming. Named to the *Parade* All-America Team. Named a first-team All-American by 247Sports.

**P SAM IRWIN-HILL** 6-3, 215, BENDINGO, AUSTRALIA  
Possesses the ability to punt with either leg. Ranked as the No. 1 junior college punter in America by 247Sports.

**OL DENVER KIRKLAND** 6-5, 320, MIAMI, FL  
Ranked as the No. 5 offensive guard in the country by Scout. Tabbed by ESPN as the No. 12 offensive tackle in the country.

**OL REEVE KOEHLER** 6-3, 325, HONOLULU, HI  
Ranked as the No. 2 overall prospect in Hawaii by Rivals and 247Sports. Rated by Rivals as the No. 8 offensive guard in the country.

**DT KE'TYRUS MARKS** 6-1, 288, WEST PALM BEACH, FL  
Selected to play in the Florida-Georgia All-Star Game and the Palm Beach County-Treasure Coast All-Star Game following his senior season.

**S KORLISS MARSHALL** 6-0, 200, OSCEOLA, AR  
Rushed for more than 4,100 yards and nearly 60 TDs in high school. Rated as the No. 6 prospect in Arkansas by Rivals and state's 10th-best prospect by 247Sports.

**OL JOHNATHAN McCLURE** 6-4, 310, WICHITA, KS  
All-American both seasons at Butler (Kan.) Community College. Ranked as the No. 5 junior college offensive guard in the country by 247Sports.

**QB DAMON MITCHELL** 6-2, 200, EGG HARBOR CITY, NJ  
Ranked as the No. 11 dual-threat quarterback in the nation and the No. 12 overall prospect in New Jersey by 247Sports.

**WR DREW MORGAN** 6-0, 190, GREENWOOD, AR  
Ranked as the No. 7 player in Arkansas by Rivals and as the No. 13 prospect in the state by 247Sports.

**OT DAN SKIPPER** 6-10, 295, ARVADA, CO  
Rated as the No. 32 offensive tackle in the country by Scout, the No. 4 prospect in Colorado and the No. 46 offensive tackle in the country by Rivals.

**LB MARTRELL SPAIGHT** 6-0, 220, NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR  
Two-time junior college All-American at Coffeyville (Kan.) Community College. He was ranked as the No. 8 junior college outside linebacker in the nation by 247Sports.

**LB MYKE TAVARRES** 6-2, 215, LAKE OSWEGO, OR  
Ranked as the No. 7 junior college outside linebacker in the country by 247Sports and 63rd in ESPN's Junior College 100 ranking.

**CB CARROLL WASHINGTON** 6-0, 175, BALTIMORE, MD  
Ranked as the No. 1 junior college cornerback and the No. 10 overall junior college player in the nation by 247Sports.



# AUBURN TIGERS

NATIONAL FORECAST: 42 // SEC WEST PREDICTION: 6

To call Auburn's 2012 season a mess would be an understatement. The Tigers experienced a monumental collapse with a 3-9 record, the worst mark within two years of winning a national championship since the Associated Press Poll began in 1936. Discipline issues, blowout losses and more NCAA questions did in Gene Chizik just two years after he held the BCS crystal trophy following the Tigers' magical 14-0 national championship season. Until the ignominious end of the Chizik regime, no FBS coach in the past 50 years had been fired within two years of winning a national title.

Auburn's slogan has changed from "All In" to "It's a New Day." New is a relative term, of course. Because as rival Alabama kept the state's national title streak going — a streak that now stands at four consecutive seasons — Auburn hired Gus Malzahn, the architect of the Tigers' 2010 championship season with Cam Newton. Malzahn missed Auburn's turbulent 2012 season by taking the Arkansas State job and returns with his up-tempo offense, which Chizik scrapped last year. At the very least, Malzahn's return gives this team a clear offensive identity — something that was sorely missing in 2012 — and some hope to Auburn fans.

"I'm very familiar with a lot of (Auburn players). I recruited a lot of them," Malzahn said at his introductory news conference. "Our expectations are to win championships. Our expectations will be high."

**QUARTERBACKS** Considering that Auburn threw eight touchdowns and 15 interceptions in 2012, the quarterback play can't get much worse. Kiehl Frazier, who was heavily recruited by Malzahn prior to his departure, struggled mightily and was benched after five games. He finished with a 53.4 percent completion rate, with only two touchdowns and eight interceptions. The hurry-up offense is better suited to Frazier's skills, but he must play with more confidence and make better decisions. Lightly recruited Jonathan Wallace completed 57.5 percent of his passes as a true freshman with four touchdowns and four interceptions. He looked more poised than Frazier. The X-factor in the quarterback picture: Junior college signee Nick Marshall, who ran for more than 1,000 yards last season but also threw 20 interceptions. It would be surprising to see incoming freshman Jeremy Johnson, who was Alabama's Mr. Football, make an immediate impact. The Spring Game edge went to Wallace (18-of-26, 191 yards, two touchdowns, one interception) over Frazier (10-of-16, 125 yards, three sacks, one fumbled handoff). But this battle likely will not be settled until fall practice.

**RUNNING BACKS** Tre Mason rushed for 1,000 yards despite too often being an afterthought in Auburn's gameplan. He has been a solid, although not spectacular, runner who could be very productive. Auburn needs to reestablish the running game under Malzahn to take pressure off its passing game. Cameron Artis-Payne, a 208-pound running back who ran for more than 2,000 yards at Allan Hancock (Calif.) College, opened eyes this spring and will complement Mason. Wallace compared Artis-Payne to Ben Tate, the former Auburn running back who is now in the NFL and, like Artis-Payne, wore No. 44 at Auburn. Artis-Payne, who will be 23 this fall, is a downhill runner. Malzahn loves playing multiple running backs who provide different looks. Corey Grant has breakaway speed for potential long gains as a speed back. H-back Jay Prosch is a valuable blocker and pass-catching threat out of the backfield.

**RECEIVERS** Auburn's top returning pass-catcher based on receptions is Quan Bray, with 14. All of the Tigers' returning receivers combined for only 54 catches in 2012. Bray, Trovon Reed, Sammie Coates and Jaylon Denson must help improve a lackluster passing game that averaged 156.6 yards through the air in 2012 (112th in the country). Denson, a 6'3", 216-pound junior, was one of the most pleasant surprises in the spring. With Emory Blake gone, Coates needs to become more of a dependable receiver than simply a deep threat. Coates has big-play potential, as shown

## 2013 SCHEDULE

### AUGUST

31 Washington State

### SEPTEMBER

7 Arkansas State

14 Mississippi State

21 at LSU

### OCTOBER

5 Ole Miss

12 Western Carolina

19 at Texas A&M

26 Florida Atlantic

### NOVEMBER

2 at Arkansas

9 at Tennessee

16 Georgia

30 Alabama



JERMAINE WHITEHEAD

## THE VERDICT

### 2013 PROJECTION: 6-6, 2-6 SEC

The Tigers drastically underachieved last season, but there's enough talent on the roster to expect a quick turnaround. New coach Gus Malzahn should provide a much-needed spark to an offense that averaged only 18.7 points per game in 2012. Identifying a No. 1 quarterback will be Malzahn's top offseason priority. The defense is also in need of repair after allowing 420.5 yards per game last season. End Corey Lemonier was a big loss, but the Tigers return nine starters. Auburn does not play Florida or South Carolina from the East, a huge break in this team's quest to get back to a bowl. **Postseason:** AdvoCare V100 Bowl vs. NC State

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Tim Clark/Athlon Sports





RB TRE  
**MASON**



in a couple highlight-reel catches last season, but drops were a problem. Ricardo Louis, who had eight catches for 66 yards in the Spring Game, is a potential vertical threat, which Auburn sorely needs. Tight end C.J. Uzomah, who moves into the role Philip Lutzenkirchen thrived in under Malzahn, could also play inside receiver.

**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** There's no choice but to be in fit shape when playing for Malzahn. To that end, Auburn's linemen were asked to get in better shape after a rough 2012 season. The Tigers allowed 37 sacks last year, 109th in the country. Six players return who have 70 combined starts, including four returning starters. The hurry-up offense starts with center Reese Dismukes, who has 23 starts. Auburn wants him to become more of a

## DEPTH CHART

### OFFENSE (5)

WR	89	Jaylon Denson (Jr.)	6	Ricardo Louis (So.)
WR	4	Ouan Bray (Jr.)	18	Sammie Coates (So.)
WR	1	Trovon Reed (Jr.)	39	B.J. Trimble (So.)
LT	73	Greg Robinson (So.)	72	Shon Coleman (Fr.)
LG	63	Alex Kozan (Fr.)	76	Jordan Diamond (Fr.)
C	50	Reese Dismukes (Jr.)	65	Tunde Fariyike (Jr.)
RG	62	Chad Slade (Jr.)	53	Devonte Danzey (So.)
RT	51	Patrick Miller (So.)	77	Shane Callahan (Fr.)
TE	81	C.J. Uzomah (Jr.)	11	Brandon Fulse (Jr.)
QB	10	Kiehl Frazier (Jr.)	12	Jonathan Wallace (So.)
RB	21	Tre Mason (Jr.)	44	Cameron Artis-Payne (Jr.)

### DEFENSE (9)

DE	95	Dee Ford (Sr.)	13	Craig Sanders (Sr.)
DT	54	Jeffrey Whitaker (Sr.)	98	Angelo Blackson (Jr.)
DT	90	Gabe Wright (Jr.)	50	Ben Bradley (So.)
DE	94	Nosa Eguae (Sr.)	92	Kenneth Carter (Sr.)
LB	5	Jake Holland (Sr.)	17	Kris Frost (So.)
LB	30	Cassanova McKinzy (So.)	10	LaDarius Owens (Jr.)
STAR	26	Justin Garrett (Jr.)	27	Robenson Therzie (Jr.)
CB	21	Jonathon Mincy (Jr.)	15	Josh Holsey (So.)
CB	11	Chris Davis (Sr.)	3	Jonathan Jones (So.)
SS	9	Jermaine Whitehead (Jr.)	19	Ryan White (Sr.)
FS	12	Demetrius McNeal (Sr.)	31	Trent Fisher (Jr.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	36	Cody Parkey (Sr.)	KR	1	Trovon Reed (Jr.)
P	30	Steven Clark (Sr.)	PR	4	Ouan Bray (Jr.)



# 83,401

Auburn shattered its spring game attendance record with an announced

crowd of 83,401 for Gus Malzahn's debut and the final rolling of the Toomer's Corner oaks. The old record was 63,217 for fans' first chance to see Cam Newton in 2010.

vocal leader. Chad Slade (22 starts) is back at right guard. Malzahn's first signing class had more junior college players than he wanted in order to look for immediate starters. One of them could be Devonte Danzey, who was considered the top junior college guard in the country. Gone is Christian Westerman, who was the nation's No. 2 offensive tackle recruit in 2011. He transferred to Arizona State.

**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** The story of Auburn's disappointing defensive line last season can be summed up by one statistic: Defensive tackle Angelo Blackson had seven tackles for a loss, tied for the team lead. During the Tigers' 2010 championship season, they had four players with more than seven tackles for a loss, including Nick Fairley with 24. Gabe Wright, who signed in 2011 while wearing a hat boasting "Nick Who?" as Fairley's presumed heir apparent, hasn't lived up to the hype yet. Blackson, who missed a week of spring practice due to a shoulder injury, has potential. Auburn ranked 11th in sacks in the SEC last season. Dee Ford and Nosa Eguae are the top pass-rushing options, although Eguae has always been a better run-stopper than pass-rusher. When Keymiya Harrell injured his right knee in spring practice, Kenneth Carter moved from defensive tackle to end, where he could end up as a starter. This defensive line has potential — but that's been a buzzword around this unit for the past two years with limited results.

**LINEBACKERS** For years at Auburn, the linebacker position was a special spot that featured big, fast and talented future NFL players. That disappeared under Chizik. Missed tackles and missed alignments occurred regularly. By last season, Auburn's best defensive player was a safety playing out of position at linebacker (Daren Bates). Perhaps it's good that new defensive co-coordinator Ellis Johnson needs only two linebackers in his 4-2-5 scheme. Justin Garrett, a hybrid linebacker/safety, opened some eyes in the spring and could be a future star. He has a nose for making big plays. Garrett's emergence has spared Auburn from using another true linebacker in that spot. Jake Holland and Cassanova McKinzy will play inside. LaDarius Owens, once a highly recruited defensive end, is now a work-in-progress linebacker.

## TEAM INFORMATION

### HEAD COACH

Gus Malzahn

### RECORD AT SCHOOL

First Season

### CAREER RECORD

9-3 (1 year)

### OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Rhett Lashlee

### CO-DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS

Ellis Johnson, Charlie Harbison

### LOCATION

Auburn, AL

### STADIUM

Jordan-Hare Stadium (87,451)

## KEY TIGERS

**Dee Ford, DE** Started off the 2012 season with a bang with two sacks of Clemson quarterback Tajh Boyd. Will keep the Tigers' pass-rush in 2013.

**Tre Mason, RB** A lone bright spot on a dismal offense. Somehow managed to run for 1,000 yards last year despite the Tigers' lackluster attack.

**Jermaine Whitehead, SS** Shows flashes of potential to be a productive SEC defensive player.

**Reese Dismukes, C** The anchor of an O-line that will have to pick up the pace in Gus Malzahn's hurry-up offense.

**Steven Clark, P** Ray Guy Award candidate needs to bounce back after disappointing 2012. Average fell a full yard to 39.8.

## KEY LOSSES

**Emory Blake, WR** Led Auburn receivers in catches (50), yards (789) and touchdowns (three). All of Auburn's returning receivers combined had only 54 catches.

**Onterio McCalebb, RB** McCalebb was a game-breaking kick returner and speed back who once thrived in Malzahn's offense.

**Corey Lemonier, DE** His decision to turn pro early rather than return for his senior season was a blow to the Auburn defense.

**Daren Bates, LB** Converted safety led Auburn in tackles and scored a touchdown on a 62-yard fumble return.

**Philip Lutzenkirchen, TE** Career ended on a sour note due to injury. But the 6'5" tight end did haul in 14 touchdown catches from 2009-11.

## RISEING STAR

**Cameron Artis-Payne** ran for 117 yards on 18 carries in the Spring Game, and he caught two balls for 47 yards. A 23-year-old junior college transfer, Artis-Payne is a low-to-the-ground bruiser who opened a lot of eyes in the spring. His size and ability have earned him comparisons to former Tiger Ben Tate.



# 2013 AUBURN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
17 Durand, Ben	6-3/200	So.	Tyngsborough, MA
10 Frazier, Kiehl	6-2/234	Jr.	Springdale, AR
19 O'Connor, Tate	6-2/197	So.	Savannah, GA
12 Wallace, Jonathan	6-2/209	So.	Phenix City, AL

RUNNING BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
44 Artis-Payne, Cameron	5-11/208	Jr.	Harrisburg, PA
20 Grant, Corey	5-11/201	Jr.	Opelika, AL
41 Lymon, Patrick	5-10/188	Jr.	Huntsville, AL
21 Mason, Tre	5-10/196	Jr.	Palm Beach, FL
35 Prosch, Jay	6-0/247	Sr.	Mobile, AL
42 Shakespeare, Chandler	5-10/208	Sr.	Oxford, AL
37 Williams, Andrew	5-9/200	So.	Leroy, AL

RECEIVERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
4 Bray, Quan	5-10/183	Jr.	LaGrange, GA
18 Coates, Sammie	6-2/201	So.	Leroy, AL
89 Denson, Jaylon	6-3/216	Jr.	Hoover, AL
6 Louis, Ricardo	6-2/217	So.	Miami Beach, FL
84 Powell, Austin	6-0/185	Jr.	Birmingham, AL
82 Ray, Melvin	6-3/218	So.	Cairo, GA
1 Reed, Trovon	6-0/190	Jr.	Thibodaux, LA
86 Reese, Dimitri	5-11/175	Jr.	Birmingham, AL
39 Trimble, B.J.	5-10/158	So.	Fayetteville, GA
87 White, Mark	5-10/180	Fr.	Montgomery, AL

TIGHT ENDS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
85 Campbell, Wirth	6-3/215	So.	Nashville, TN
83 Clifton, Michael	6-3/251	Fr.	Evans, GA
11 Fulse, Brandon	6-4/264	Jr.	Fort Meade, FL
33 Landrum, Chris	6-3/242	So.	Sweet Water, AL
46 Parks, Ricky	6-4/257	Fr.	Hogansville, GA
40 Smith, Spencer	6-6/240	Fr.	Birmingham, AL
81 Uzomah, C.J.	6-4/253	Jr.	Suwanee, GA
47 Young, Patrick	6-4/229	Jr.	Trussville, AL

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
74 Adams, Will	6-7/293	Fr.	Tyrone, GA
79 Averett, Eric	6-3/252	Fr.	Enterprise, AL
68 Bolstad, Kyle	6-4/280	Fr.	Brentwood, TN
77 Callahan, Shane	6-6/290	Fr.	Parker, CO
72 Coleman, Shon	6-6/294	Fr.	Memphis, TN
53 Danzey, Devonte	6-4/284	So.	Tampa, FL
67 DeJarnett, Delondre	6-2/291	Fr.	Clanton, AL
76 Diamond, Jordan	6-6/314	Fr.	Chicago, IL
50 Dismukes, Reese	6-3/290	Jr.	Spanish Fort, AL
65 Fariyike, Tunde	6-2/307	Jr.	Thomaston, GA
63 Kozan, Alex	6-4/292	Fr.	Castle Rock, CO
70 Leff, Robert	6-6/284	Fr.	Fairhope, AL
51 Miller, Patrick	6-7/283	So.	West Palm Beach, FL
69 Parker, Joshua	6-0/290	Sr.	Cullman, AL
73 Robinson, Greg	6-5/314	So.	Thibodaux, LA
62 Slade, Chad	6-5/308	Jr.	Moody, AL
78 Wingard, Colton	6-2/295	So.	Alabaster, AL
56 Young, Avery	6-6/314	So.	Palm Beach Gardens, FL

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
98 Blackson, Angelo	6-4/312	Jr.	Bear, DE
50 Bradley, Ben	6-1/310	So.	Norcross, GA
97 Brooks, Reid	6-2/230	Fr.	Dothan, AL
92 Carter, Kenneth	6-4/287	Sr.	Greenville, AL
52 Delaine, Justin	6-5/240	Jr.	Linden, AL
94 Eguave, Nosa	6-3/268	Sr.	Mansfield, TX
95 Ford, Dee	6-2/238	Sr.	Odenville, AL
45 Harrell, Keymiya	6-4/262	So.	Selma, AL
91 Nero, Tyler	6-2/266	Fr.	Atmore, AL
93 Niles, JaBrian	6-2/305	So.	Mobile, AL
42 President, Gimel	6-4/250	Fr.	Mt. Pleasant, SC
13 Sanders, Craig	6-4/242	Sr.	Clio, AL
60 Thomas, Jackson	6-1/250	Fr.	Birmingham, AL
99 Walsh, Brian	6-3/312	So.	Winter Springs, FL
54 Whitaker, Jeffrey	6-4/307	Sr.	Warner Robins, GA
90 Wright, Gabe	6-3/300	Jr.	Columbus, GA

LINEBACKERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
57 Batten, Gage	6-0/231	Fr.	Palm Beach Gardens, FL
17 Frost, Kris	6-2/231	So.	Matthews, NC
26 Garrett, Justin	6-1/214	Jr.	Tucker, GA
58 Gaston, Harris	6-2/236	Sr.	Birmingham, AL
5 Holland, Jake	6-1/243	Sr.	Pelham, AL
30 McKinzy, Cassanova	6-3/245	So.	Birmingham, AL
18 Mitchell, JaViere	6-2/211	Fr.	Leeds, AL
10 Owens, LaDarius	6-2/248	Jr.	Bessemer, AL
27 Therezie, Robenson	5-9/202	Jr.	Miami, FL
29 VanGorder, Mack	6-1/190	So.	Gainesville, GA

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
11 Davis, Chris	5-11/198	Sr.	Birmingham, AL
28 Davis, T.J.	6-1/194	Fr.	Tallahassee, FL
38 Dyas, Adam	5-9/200	Jr.	Mobile, AL
31 Fisher, Trent	6-1/200	Jr.	Nashville, TN
15 Holsey, Joshua	5-11/195	So.	Fairburn, GA
3 Jones, Jonathan	5-10/172	So.	Carrollton, GA
12 McNeal, Demetruce	6-2/194	Sr.	College Park, GA
21 Mincy, Jonathon	5-10/191	Jr.	East Atlanta, GA
32 Poole, Blake	5-11/189	Sr.	Buchanan, GA
24 Smith, Ryan	6-2/197	Sr.	Cordova, AL
46 Spriggs, Jordan	5-9/199	Jr.	Mobile, AL
44 Swain, Anthony	6-2/235	So.	Gadsden, AL
19 White, Ryan	5-11/196	Sr.	Tallahassee, FL
9 Whitehead, Jermaine	5-11/198	Jr.	Greenwood, MS

SPECIALISTS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
30 Clark, Steven (P)	6-5/232	Sr.	Kansas City, MO
64 Hill, Forrest (LS)	6-1/242	Jr.	Jonesboro, GA
39 Kvikiys, Alex (K)	6-1/185	So.	Marietta, GA
59 Lembke, Jake (LS)	6-2/240	Sr.	New Lenox, IL
41 Locker, Alex (K/P)	6-3/201	Fr.	Westford, MA
33 McKinney, Duncan (K)	5-11/181	So.	Florence, AL
61 Moorman, C.T. (LS)	6-0/230	So.	Durham, NC
36 Parkey, Cody (K)	6-0/186	Sr.	Jupiter, FL
53 Sulka, Michael (LS)	6-3/244	Fr.	Bluffton, SC
32 Yancey, Taylor (K)	6-4/199	Fr.	Castle Rock, CO

## 2012 RESULTS

RECORD: 3-9, 0-8 (SEC)

Sept. 1	vs. Clemson %	L	19-26
Sept. 8	at Mississippi State	L	10-28
Sept. 15	ULM (ot)	W	31-28
Sept. 22	LSU	L	10-12
Oct. 6	Arkansas	L	7-24
Oct. 13	at Ole Miss	L	20-41
Oct. 20	at Vanderbilt	L	13-17
Oct. 27	Texas A&M	L	21-63
Nov. 3	New Mexico State	W	42-7
Nov. 10	Georgia	L	0-38
Nov. 17	Alabama A&M	W	51-7
Nov. 24	at Alabama	L	0-49

%Atlanta



DEMETRUC McNEAL

## 2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Kiehl Frazier	116	62	753	2	8
Jonathan Wallace	80	46	720	4	4
Clint Moseley	60	38	373	1	3

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Tre Mason	171	1,002	5.8	8
Onterio McCalebb	94	570	6.1	6
Mike Blakely	33	153	4.6	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Emory Blake	50	789	15.8	3
Onterio McCalebb	18	132	7.3	0
Philip Lutzenkirchen	15	139	9.3	0
Quan Bray	14	94	6.7	0

KICKING: Cody Parkey, 11-14 FGs, 27-27 XPs, 60 points

TACKLES: Daren Bates, 94; Demetruce McNeal, 90

SACKS: Dee Ford, 6

INTERCEPTIONS: Trent Fisher, 1; Daren Bates, 1

Returning Players in Bold

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	18.7 ppg	13	112
Rushing	148.4 ypg	9	78
Passing	156.6 ypg	13	112
Total	305.0 ypg	14	115

Defense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	28.3 ppg	10	66
Rushing	197.6 ypg	14	97
Passing	222.9 ypg	8	47
Total	420.5 ypg	13	79

TO Margin	Per Game	SEC	National
-12	-1.00	13	106

## SCOUTING THE TIGERS

### OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP AUBURN

"Auburn's biggest problem was trying to be a pro-style offense with spread-type personnel. They didn't have many guys who you had to worry about. They had the one good receiver, Emory Blake. He was okay. The tight end (Philip Lutzenkirchen) was a unique weapon for them; he made some plays for them, but then he got hurt. ... Both Tre Mason and Onterio McCalebb were good. McCalebb tore it up at the combine, and Mason was a 1,000-yard back. ... It came down to the quarterback. They never really decided on a quarterback and never figured that out. (Clint) Moseley and (Kiehl) Frazier didn't end up being what they anticipated. I'm not sure what is going to happen at that position with (Gus) Malzahn taking over. ... Malzahn has an outstanding reputation. It is a little different when you are the head coach than just the offensive coordinator, but he knows what he is doing. Him and Hugh Freeze have similar backgrounds — they both have taken high school offenses and made them big-time college offenses. They try to out-tempo you and out-formation you. ... The tackling is suspect. The defense wasn't overly physical. It's a really athletic team. They had some ballplayers. They were really young, so there wasn't much consistency there. ... They've had a mess of distractions this offseason and probably just want to get back to football."



**DEFENSIVE BACKS** All four of Auburn's top cornerbacks are back: Chris Davis, Jonathon Mincy, Josh Holsey and Jonathan Jones. Starting safeties Demetruce McNeal and Jermaine Whitehead return, too. Then again, this was a secondary that had only one interception last season, by reserve Trent Fisher against Alabama A&M. Auburn's entire defense had two interceptions in 2012, tied with South Florida for the fewest in the country. McNeal missed time this spring due to what Auburn described as personal issues. With games this season against Texas A&M's Johnny Manziel, Georgia's Aaron Murray and Alabama's AJ McCarron, Auburn's secondary will have to play better. Those three quarterbacks combined to complete 72 of their passes with nine touchdowns and no interceptions against Auburn in 2012.

**SPECIALISTS** Auburn's 2012 season was so miserable that even its punter, Steven Clark, averaged a yard less on his punts. Clark, a Ray Guy Award finalist in 2011, returns and chalks up 2012 as a season of mis-hits. Opponents have returned only 15 of his 142 punts over the past two years thanks to Clark's skying kicks. Cody Parkey returns as a solid kicker who didn't get many chances last year. The Tigers' best offense last year often came on kickoff returns by Onterio McCalebb, who is gone. Reed and Bray have the best shot at returning kicks, but it remains to be seen if they can impact games the way McCalebb could.

## OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

**FROM 0-FER TO SEC** It's not every day you see a head coach last only one season. New Auburn defensive coordinator Ellis Johnson experienced that low in 2012 when he was fired at Southern Miss after an 0-12 record. Head coaching may not be Johnson's strength — Southern Miss was his third attempt at being the boss at the collegiate level — but he has a reputation for strong defenses with his preferred 4-2-5 scheme. This is Johnson's fourth coordinating job in the SEC after stints at Alabama, Mississippi State and South Carolina. The Gamecocks ranked third nationally in yards per game during Johnson's last year in Columbia in 2011. "He's a true professional," Gus Malzahn says. "His standards are very high. Just for the basic foundations, techniques, he's as good as it gets. He'll have the defense ready."

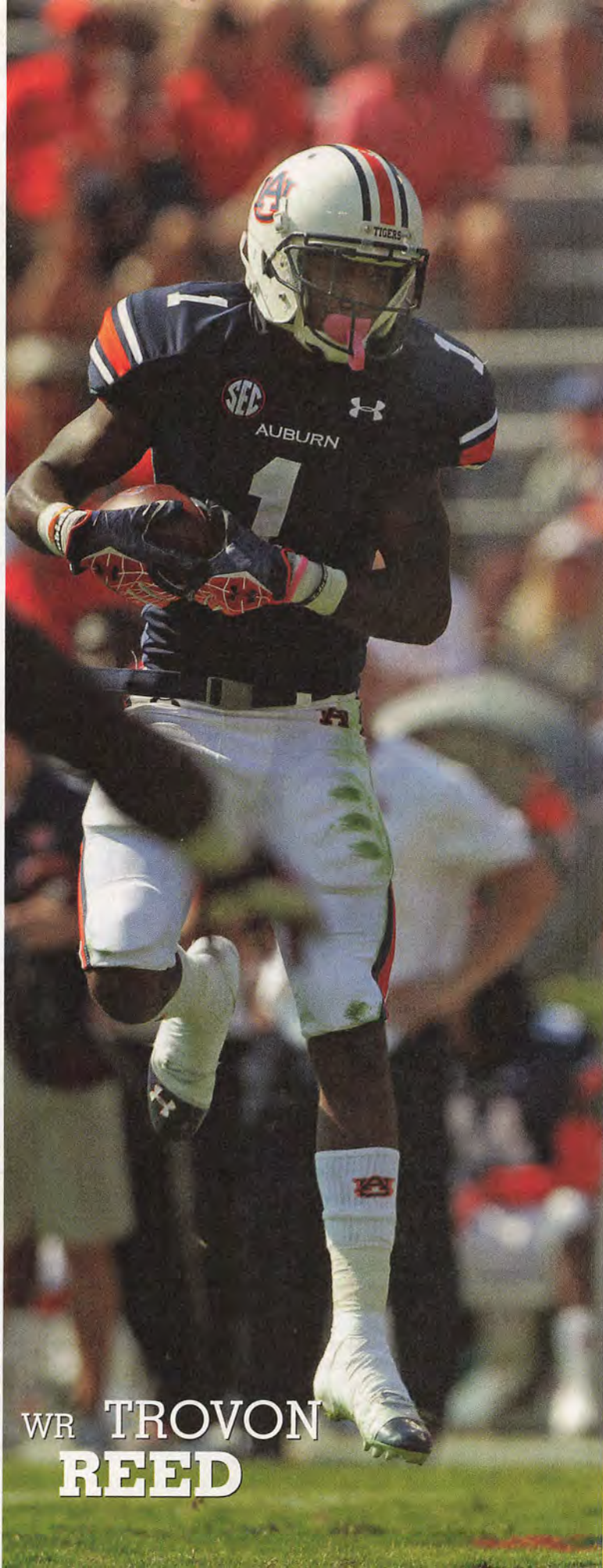
**YOUNG COORDINATOR** Rhett Lashlee is Auburn's 29-year-old offensive coordinator after returning to the school with his mentor, Gus Malzahn. Lashlee won Arkansas high school state titles as Malzahn's quarterback and later became a graduate assistant for Malzahn at Auburn. After one-year stints running offenses at Samford and Arkansas State, Lashlee is an SEC offensive coordinator before turning 30 (his birthday is in July). Put it this way: Lashlee wasn't even born when Johnson, Auburn's defensive coordinator, got his first head coaching job in 1983 at Gardner-Webb.

**COLEMAN BEATS CANCER** Offensive lineman Shon Coleman was a 5-star recruit when he signed with Auburn in 2010. Weeks later, he learned he had acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Auburn promised it would honor his scholarship no matter what, and now Coleman may be a contributor. He missed the 2010 and 2011 seasons and was cleared to practice last spring but redshirted in 2012. Technically, Coleman is a redshirt freshman and was granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA earlier this year.

**\$75,000 FOR CURFEW CHECK** How bad did discipline get for Auburn in Gene Chizik's last year? The university spent approximately \$75,000 for an event management security firm to conduct curfew checks of players last season. The firm began monitoring curfews after center Reese Dismukes' arrest on public intoxication charges last summer. Auburn is no longer using the company for curfews. "We'd rather have not had to spend the money," Auburn said in a statement, "but the well-being of our student-athletes was and continues to be more important."

**JOB STATUS** Auburn Athletics Director Jay Jacobs could use a good debut season by Gus Malzahn. Jacobs kept his job despite a lot of fans wanting him out. Jacobs had full control of the coaching search that hired Gene Chizik in 2008 but was also part of a committee for the Malzahn hiring.

**SCHEDULE TALK** For the first time, Auburn will play rivals Alabama and Georgia at Jordan-Hare Stadium in the same season. The SEC's reconfiguration of its schedule after expansion called for Georgia to visit Auburn in consecutive seasons.



WR TROVON  
REED



# 2013 SIGNEES

Auburn flipped six commits and pulled in several key Signing Day decisions to hold together Gus Malzahn's first class. The Tigers ranked in or near the top-10 nationally by all the recruiting services.

Defensive end Carl Lawson was the most significant signing as Auburn loaded up on the defensive line, an underachieving position since Tracy Rocker left as the position coach. Auburn has had highly rated defensive line prospects in recent years who haven't panned out. It's Rodney Garner's job to coach up this latest crop.

In addition to Lawson, Auburn got 5-star defensive tackle Montravius Adams, who was undeclared until he chose the Tigers on Signing Day. He had 34 tackles for a loss as a senior and was rated the nation's No. 2 defensive tackle by 247Sports.

"I don't know if I've ever seen a bigger, more athletic guy than him," Malzahn says. "I really feel like the sky is the limit with him."

## BREAKDOWN BY POSITION

Defensive Backs	4
Defensive Linemen	4
Wide Receivers	4
Quarterbacks	3
Running Backs	3
Linebackers	2
Offensive Linemen	2
Kickers	1

## BY STATE

Alabama	7
Georgia	6
Florida	5
Colorado	1
Indiana	1
Mississippi	1
Oklahoma	1
Pennsylvania	1

Jeremy Johnson, Alabama's Mr. Football, may be the Tigers' future quarterback at a position where there's no clear No. 1 at the moment. Johnson, a 4-star quarterback, threw for 3,193 yards, 31 touchdowns and seven interceptions as a senior. He also ran for 705 yards and seven scores, the type of dual-threat option that Malzahn loves. Johnson was also an excellent basketball player. His football throwing mechanics need work, but he has arm strength and mobility.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ...

### DE • CARL LAWSON • ALPHARETTA, GA

Recruiting attention in Alabama last winter focused on 5-star linebacker Reuben Foster — he of the famous Auburn tattoo — breaking his Auburn commitment to join the Crimson Tide. Lost in that hoopla was who Auburn kept: 5-star defensive end Carl Lawson.

"He provided the stability on the defensive side to have the class that we did," Auburn coach Gus Malzahn says. "He's a phenomenal player."

Lawson was rated the No. 2 overall prospect in the country by ESPN and No. 4 by Rivals. He originally committed to Auburn in March 2012. But Gene Chizik's firing caused Lawson to take official visits to Tennessee and Clemson and an unofficial visit to Georgia Tech, where his father, Carl, once played as a fullback.

At 6'3" and 255 pounds, Lawson recorded 27 sacks as a high school senior after having 15 sacks his junior year. He is considered the most college-ready of all of Auburn's new players, showing off a quick first step and a variety of techniques to rush the passer.

Auburn's depleted pass rush could use Lawson, especially with Corey Lemonier gone a year early. Don't be surprised to see Lawson playing in at least some pass-rushing situations as a freshman.

**DT MONTRAVIUS ADAMS** 6-3, 315, VIENNA, GA  
Participated in the Under Armour All-America Game. 247Sports All-American. Rated the No. 2 defensive lineman, No. 14 player overall by PrepStar.

**DB MACKENRO ALEXANDER** 6-0, 185, IMMOKALEE, FL  
Ranked the No. 50 defensive back, No. 96 prospect from Florida by 247Sports. Picked off five passes as a senior, returning four for touchdowns.

**RB CAMERON ARTIS-PAYNE** 5-11, 208, HARRISBURG, PA  
Rated as the nation's top junior college running back. Rushed for 2,048 yards, 25 touchdowns in 2012 at Allan Hancock (Calif.) College.

**RB PEYTON BARBER** 5-11, 206, ALPHARETTA, GA  
Rated the No. 32 running back and No. 48 prospect in Georgia by 247Sports. Prep-Star All-Southeast player.

**DT BEN BRADLEY** 6-1, 305, NORCROSS, GA  
Had 43 tackles and five sacks in 2012 for Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College.

**K DANIEL CARLSON** 6-5, 190, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO  
Ranked No. 4 nationally among kickers by Scout and Rivals. MaxPreps small school All-American.

**DE ELIJAH DANIEL** 6-4, 250, AVON, IN  
Under Armour All-America Game participant. Rated the No. 2 player in Indiana and No. 8 defensive end by Rivals.

**OL DEVONTE DANZEY** 6-4, 295, TAMPA, FL  
Ranked as the nation's top junior college prospect at offensive guard. First-team All-Jayhawk Conference for Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College.

**WR MARCUS DAVIS** 5-10, 165, DELRAY BEACH, FL  
Talented dual-threat threw for 1,019 yards, 15 touchdowns in 2012; he also ran for 846 yards and eight touchdowns. Florida Class 3A All-State.

**LB KENNY FLOWERS** 6-2, 230, LILBURN, GA  
Rated the No. 2 junior college inside linebacker by 247Sports. Had 6.5 tackles for a loss in 2012 for Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College.

**RB JOHNATHAN FORD** 5-11, 175, NEW HOPE, AL  
Ranked as the top running back in Alabama by Rivals. Gained 1,669 yards, scored 27 touchdowns as a high school senior.

**DB KHARI HARDING** 6-1, 205, EDMOND, OK  
Rated the No. 3 player in Oklahoma, No. 31 defensive back nationally by 247Sports. 109 tackles, three interceptions as a senior.

**QB JEREMY JOHNSON** 6-5, 215, MONTGOMERY, AL  
U.S. Army All-American Bowl and Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic participant. Ranked the No. 12 player in Alabama, No. 14 quarterback nationally by 247Sports.

**DB BRANDON KING** 6-1, 210, ALABASTER, AL  
Rated the No. 5 junior college defensive back by 247Sports. First team All-Jayhawk Conference for Highland (Kan.) Community College.

**DE CARL LAWSON** 6-3, 255, ALPHARETTA, GA  
247Sports, Under Armour first-team All-American. The top-ranked defensive end and No. 4 player in the nation by Rivals.

**QB NICK MARSHALL** 6-2, 210, ROCHELLE, GA  
Passed for 3,142 yards, 18 TDs and rushed for 1,095 yards, 19 TDs for Garden City (Kan.) Community College. Rated the No. 4 junior college quarterback by 247Sports.

**DB KAMRYN MELTON** 5-11, 175, DOTHAN, AL  
Rated the No. 20 prospect in Alabama, No. 48 defensive back in the nation by 247Sports. Forced two turnovers in Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game.

**OL DEON MIX** 6-4, 315, BATESVILLE, MS  
Played in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. PrepStar All-American. Rated the No. 5 player in Mississippi, No. 15 offensive lineman by Rivals.

**WR EARNEST ROBINSON** 6-2, 205, PINSON, AL  
Under Armour All-America Game participant. Rated No. 7 receiver in the nation by PrepStar and the No. 1 receiver in Alabama by Rivals.

**QB JASON SMITH** 6-1, 180, MOBILE, AL  
MVP of the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game playing receiver. Passed for 1,566 yards, 19 TDs, rushed for 849 yards, 16 TDs as a senior.

**WR TONY STEVENS** 6-3, 175, ORLANDO, FL  
PrepStar All-American. Ranked the No. 95 overall player, No. 11 receiver by Rivals.

**LB CAMERON TONEY** 6-2, 215, HUNTSVILLE, AL  
Ranked the No. 14 player in Alabama, No. 21 linebacker nationally by 247Sports. Recorded 107 tackles as a senior.

**WR DOMINIC WALKER** 6-2, 195, ORLANDO, FL  
Rated the No. 95 receiver in the nation by Rivals and No. 77 by Scout.



# **LSU** **TIGERS**

NATIONAL FORECAST: **12** // SEC WEST PREDICTION: **3**

**A**ny college coach is prepared for turnover on an annual basis, as one wave of players moves on and another moves in. It's not often that a coach in his ninth season with a big-time program is left to hang a 'Help wanted' sign out, though. OK, it didn't quite get to that point with LSU's Les Miles in a hectic offseason of change, but there will certainly be a new look for the Tigers in 2013, and all phases of the game will be noticeably affected.

On the heels of a 10-3 season that ended with a last-second loss to Clemson in the Chick-fil-A Bowl, LSU lost its normal crop of seniors but also 10 juniors who declared for the NFL Draft a year early. Most of the damage was inflicted on defense, where six key players vacated the defensive line, two starters left the secondary, along with middle linebacker and defensive rock Kevin Minter. The changes aren't limited to that side of the ball, though.

Miles tweaked his offensive staff, hiring longtime friend Cam Cameron, who was fired as the Baltimore Ravens' offensive coordinator late in the regular season of their Super Bowl-winning campaign.

Winds of change? Try something more akin to the hurricane-like forces that South Louisiana is known for right around the start of the football season. If Miles is daunted by this new challenge, though, he isn't showing his cards.

"We have a group of guys who are working like heck to get better," Miles says. "We're finding that our guys that might not be household names are still good players. They're LSU players."

**QUARTERBACKS** Zach Mettenberger is back for his second year as a starter after a junior season that was ushered in with huge expectations — perhaps too big — and wavered between disappointing, mediocre and effective. He wound up with 2,609 passing yards, but only 12 touchdowns against seven interceptions. There was a stretch late in the season when the Tigers relied more on the strong-armed Georgia native, and he responded well. But the last two games, a narrow win at Arkansas and the loss to Clemson, were steps backward. Cameron has a reputation as a strong tutor of quarterbacks, and he could be a huge influence on Mettenberger in a season in which LSU needs its quarterback to be productive. Mettenberger has to develop more pocket awareness and better touch on deep passes to be effective.

**RUNNING BACKS** There aren't many programs that could absorb the loss of two juniors as talented as Michael Ford and Spencer Ware. LSU is the exception. Jeremy Hill exploded as the go-to back midway through his freshman campaign and led the Tigers with 755 rushing yards and 12 scores. The 6'2", 235-pound bulldozer was in line to be the No. 1 back this fall, but Hill was arrested in late April after allegedly punching a man outside of a bar in Baton Rouge. It was Hill's second arrest in the past three years. If Hill is not available, LSU — as usual — has other quality options in the backfield. Alfred Blue and Kenny Hilliard both spent time as the lead back last season, and both have topped 100 yards in a game several times. Whoever stays healthy — Blue missed the last 10 games with a knee injury in 2012 — and is best at ball security will be given a chance to shine.

**RECEIVERS** As up-and-down as Mettenberger was in 2012, he had plenty of company with his receiving corps, and that's a fact that has to change dramatically for the offense to flourish in 2013. Like the quarterback they're linked to, juniors Odell Beckham Jr. and Jarvis Landry were special at times but way too ordinary at others. They need to limit their drops, improve their route-running and get better separation off the line of scrimmage. Landry grabbed a team-high 56 passes for 573 yards and five TDs, while Beckham was the leader in yards (713) on 43 catches. Seniors Kadron Boone and James Wright were steady but not spectacular. All four should be looking over their shoulders, however, especially with the arrival of junior college transfer Quantavious Leslie, a 6'4", 190-pounder who will be counted on to give the Tigers what they sorely lacked last season — a home run threat. Don't be surprised if freshmen Avery Peterson and John Diarse push the veterans for reps.

## 2013 SCHEDULE

### AUGUST

31 vs. TCU #

### SEPTEMBER

7 UAB

14 Kent State

21 Auburn

28 at Georgia

### OCTOBER

5 at Mississippi State

12 Florida

19 at Ole Miss

26 Furman

### NOVEMBER

9 at Alabama

23 Texas A&M

30 Arkansas

#Arlington, TX



JARVIS LANDRY

## THE VERDICT

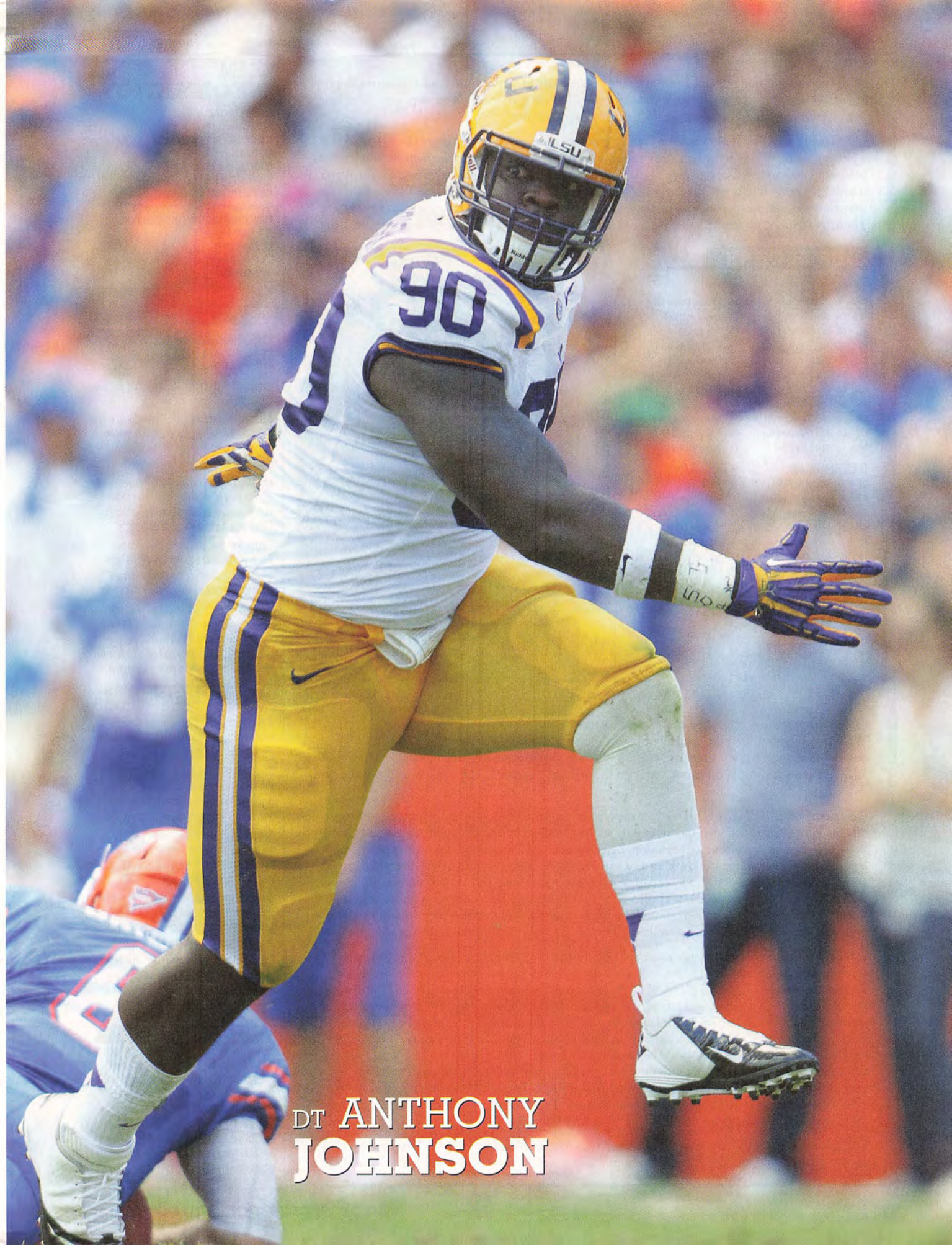
### 2013 PROJECTION: 9-3, 5-3 SEC

The Tigers were hit hard by early departures to the NFL Draft, leaving only 10 starters returning to LSU for 2013. The cupboard isn't bare for Les Miles, but the Tigers are clearly behind Alabama and Texas A&M in the SEC West pecking order. LSU won't abandon its run-first approach on offense, but new coordinator Cam Cameron is tasked with getting more production from quarterback Zach Mettenberger. The defense has plenty of young talent and will get better as the season progresses. However, there will be an adjustment period with the departure of six key linemen, an All-SEC linebacker and two starters in the secondary. **Postseason: Cotton Bowl vs. Texas**

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND







DT ANTHONY  
**JOHNSON**



With Cameron running the offense, the tight ends are likely to be more involved as receivers. Sophomore Dillon Gordon has soft hands and is the most imposing athlete of the group, and junior college transfer Logan Stokes should see the field in power formations.

**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** Shuffling the front five out of necessity last fall turned out to be a bit of a blessing, as the Tigers go into the new season with four veterans up front augmented by a host of promising newcomers. The one major hole is at center, where Elliott Porter takes over for three-year starter P.J. Lonergan, but even Porter got a start last season when Lonergan was hurt. The right side seems fairly locked down, with Trai Turner and Vadal Alexander back at guard and tackle, respectively. Those two teamed up to give Miles plenty of confidence to run the ball to their side last year. With

## DEPTH CHART

### OFFENSE (7)

WR	3	Odell Beckham Jr. (Jr.)	86	Kadron Boone (Sr.)
WR	80	Jarvis Landry (Jr.)	82	James Wright (Sr.)
LT	70	La'el Collins (Jr.)	65	Jerald Hawkins (Fr.)
LG	74	Josh Williford (Sr.)	69	Fehoko Fanaika (Jr.)
C	55	Elliott Porter (Jr.)	77	Ethan Pocic (Fr.)
RG	56	Trai Turner (So.)	75	Evan Washington (Jr.)
RT	78	Vadal Alexander (So.)	66	Derek Edinburg Jr. (Fr.)
TE	84	Logan Stokes (Jr.)	85	Dillon Gordon (So.)
QB	8	Zach Mettenberger (Sr.)	17	Stephen Rivers (So.)
FB	44	J.C. Copeland (Sr.)	27	Kenny Hilliard (Jr.)
TB	4	Alfred Blue (Sr.)	27	Kenny Hilliard (Jr.)

### DEFENSE (3)

DE	59	Jermauria Rasco (Jr.)	98	Jordan Allen (Jr.)
DT	90	Anthony Johnson (Jr.)		Greg Gilmore (Fr.)
DT	9	Ego Ferguson (Jr.)	91	Christian LaCouture (Fr.)
DE	94	Danielle Hunter (So.)		Tashawn Bower (Fr.)
LB	25	Kwon Alexander (So.)	58	Tahj Jones (Sr.)
LB	57	Lamin Barrow (Sr.)	22	Ronnie Feist (So.)
LB		Kendell Beckwith (Fr.)	23	Lamar Louis (So.)
CB	32	Jalen Collins (So.)		Jeryl Brazil (Fr.)
CB	28	Jalen Mills (So.)		Tre'Davious White (Fr.)
SS	6	Craig Loston (Sr.)	34	Micah Eugene (So.)
FS	26	Ronald Martin (Jr.)	12	Corey Thompson (So.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	30	James Hairston (Jr.)	KR	Jeryl Brazil (Fr.)
P	38	Jamie Keehn (So.)	PR	3 Odell Beckham Jr. (Jr.)



**13** In three LSU losses last season, quarterback Zach Mettenberger was sacked 13 times. In the 10 wins, he was sacked 19 times.

those two apparently entrenched, that leaves two-year starter Josh Williford — who missed the last half of last season with a concussion — as a man, a very large man (6'7", 332), without a guaranteed starting job. He has worked at all five spots and could carve out a spot on the left side if junior La'el Collins nails down the left tackle job.

**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** This is where the rebuilding project begins for fifth-year defensive coordinator John Chavis, although he isn't exactly starting from scratch. In fact, the experienced players back — Jermauria Rasco, Anthony Johnson, Ego Ferguson and Danielle Hunter — may be more athletic and potentially more explosive in terms of generating a pass rush than the recently departed group. Rasco is a hybrid of Sam Montgomery and Barkevious Mingo and a more polished pass-rusher than either. Miles has gushed about Hunter from the day he arrived on campus. Johnson and Ferguson are fast enough to deliver 300 pounds of hurt on any play. And there is a slew of freshmen talent poised to factor in — Tashawn Bower, Frank Herron, Christian LaCouture and Greg Gilmore.

**LINEBACKERS** No player was more valuable to the LSU defense in 2012 than Minter, who recorded 130 tackles and more or less took away the middle of the field for running backs. However, this is a spot where Chavis has plenty of talent to choose from thanks to a six-man 2012 linebacker recruiting class as well as the 2013 arrival of one of the state's best prep players, Kendell Beckwith. For experience, Chavis can lean on senior Lamin Barrow to be an anchor after he played a strong second fiddle to Minter with 104 tackles, as well as Tahj Jones, who missed all but the first game of the 2012 regular season with academic issues. The headliners from the '12 recruiting class are Kwon Alexander, Deion Jones and Lamar Louis. All three have shown a nose for the football and a knack for being the kind of disruptive force Chavis wants from his linebackers. Beckwith will likely operate as an outside linebacker/rush end, with a talented combination of speed and strength that will make it hard for Chavis to keep him off the field.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** There will be some new faces in some prominent roles in the secondary. Cornerbacks Jalen Mills and Jalen Collins were forced into action as true freshmen last fall, and both

## TEAM INFORMATION

### HEAD COACH

Les Miles

### RECORD AT SCHOOL

85-21 (8 years)

### CAREER RECORD

113-42 (12 years)

### OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Cam Cameron

### DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

John Chavis

### LOCATION

Baton Rouge, LA

### STADIUM

Tiger Stadium (92,542)

## KEY TIGERS

**Odell Beckham Jr., WR** The Tigers need Beckham to limit his drops and use his athleticism (16.6 ypc) to produce big plays.

**Zach Mettenberger, QB** Showed signs of being an All-SEC-caliber quarterback at times and now has a new offensive coordinator to help him find consistency.

**La'el Collins, OL** Gives the Tigers a veteran to plug in at left tackle or one to keep at left guard if a younger lineman emerges. Either way, he is the anchor up front.

**Lamin Barrow, LB** Overshadowed by Kevin Minter, but he was one of the stalwarts in a linebacker corps that helped camouflage some inexperience and youth in the secondary.

**Anthony Johnson, DT** Blossomed as a sophomore as a run-stuffer and pass-rusher and comes back as LSU's best and most experienced man on the front four.

## KEY LOSSES

**Kevin Minter, MLB** One of the nation's best defensive players had 130 tackles for the season, including 20 in one game.

**Eric Reid, S** Though he struggled at times in pass coverage, Reid was a stalwart against the run and was invaluable as a leader with a young secondary.

**Sam Montgomery, DE** Led the Tigers with eight sacks last season and was a consistent force as a pass-rusher off the edge with a relentless motor.

**Barkevious Mingo, DE** "KeKe" was more potential than production during his days in Baton Rouge. But he was able to cash in as the No. 6 pick in the NFL Draft.

**Brad Wing, P** He was strange, and his production dropped off from an amazing 2011 campaign. But Wing was a bona fide weapon on special teams.

## RISEING STAR

Raw, game-changing speed is one thing coaches can't create or develop, and that's something freshman **Jeryl Brazil** has in abundance, which makes him a threat any time he steps on the field this fall. Brazil's natural position is at cornerback, but he will also get a look on special teams in the return game.





## 2013 LSU ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
1 Bolden, Rob	6-4/208	Jr.	Orchard Lake, MI
10 Jennings, Anthony	6-2/205	Fr.	Marietta, GA
16 Kragthorpe, Brad	6-0/186	So.	Tulsa, OK
8 Mettenberger, Zach	6-5/230	Sr.	Watkinsville, GA
11 Rettig, Hayden	6-2/201	Fr.	Los Angeles, CA
17 Rivers, Stephen	6-8/225	So.	Athens, AL

RUNNING BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
4 Blue, Alfred	6-2/220	Sr.	Boutte, LA
44 Copeland, J.C.	6-1/272	Jr.	LaGrange, GA
34 Davis, Michael	5-9/187	Fr.	Prairieville, LA
33 Hill, Jeremy	6-2/235	So.	Baton Rouge, LA
27 Hilliard, Kenny	6-0/231	Jr.	Patterson, LA
28 Juneau, Jonathan	5-11/198	Fr.	Lafayette, LA
14 Magee, Terrence	5-9/212	Jr.	Franklin, LA
35 Meullion, Devante	5-10/240	So.	Seattle, WA
43 Neighbors, Connor	5-11/236	Sr.	Huntsville, AL
29 Scardina, Stephen	5-11/272	Fr.	Baton Rouge, LA

RECEIVERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
3 Beckham Jr., Odell	6-0/187	Jr.	New Orleans, LA
86 Boone, Kadron	6-0/207	Sr.	Ocala, FL
88 Diarse, John	6-1/205	Fr.	Monroe, LA
83 Dural, Travin	6-2/180	Fr.	Breaux Bridge, LA
5 Fobbs, Jarrett	5-11/188	Jr.	Shreveport, LA
87 Johnson, Jordan	5-8/184	Sr.	Friendswood, TX
13 LaBorde, Chris	6-1/185	So.	Lafayette, LA
80 Landry, Jarvis	6-1/195	Jr.	Convent, LA
89 Lang, Jeffrey	5-11/188	Jr.	Benton, LA
2 Peterson, Avery	6-1/180	Fr.	Pompano Beach, FL
81 Williams, Armand	6-3/200	Jr.	Slidell, LA
82 Wright, James	6-2/203	Sr.	Belle Chasse, LA

TIGHT ENDS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
41 Dickson, Travis	6-3/230	Jr.	Ocean Springs, MS
85 Gordon, Dillon	6-5/280	So.	River Ridge, LA
46 Mitchell, Charles	6-1/200	Jr.	Sugar Land, TX
84 Stokes, Logan	6-5/253	Jr.	Muscle Shoals, AL

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
78 Alexander, Vadal	6-6/350	So.	Buford, GA
71 Austin, Jonah	6-6/329	So.	New Orleans, LA
70 Collins, La'el	6-5/321	Jr.	Baton Rouge, LA
66 Edinburg Jr., Derek	6-8/316	Fr.	New Orleans, LA
69 Fanaika, Fehoko	6-6/340	Jr.	Sacramento, CA
65 Hawkins, Jerald	6-6/300	Fr.	Baldwin, LA
52 Langlois, Gabe	6-2/310	So.	Prairieville, LA
77 Povic, Ethan	6-7/285	Fr.	Lemont, IL
55 Porter, Elliott	6-4/300	Jr.	Waggaman, LA
57 Townsend, Cody	6-1/283	Fr.	Marrero, LA
56 Turner, Trai	6-3/306	So.	New Orleans, LA
75 Washington, Evan	6-6/324	Jr.	DeSoto, TX
67 White, Adam	6-0/260	So.	Baton Rouge, LA
74 Williford, Josh	6-7/332	Sr.	Dothan, AL

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
98 Allen, Jordan	6-6/253	Jr.	West Monroe, LA
9 Ferguson, Ego	6-3/308	Jr.	Mims, FL
94 Hunter, Danielle	6-5/235	So.	Katy, TX
90 Johnson, Anthony	6-3/304	Jr.	New Orleans, LA
96 Johnson, Mickey	6-0/306	So.	Covington, LA
91 Jones, A'Trey-U	6-0/282	Sr.	Tickfaw, LA
91 LaCouture, Christian	6-5/290	Fr.	Lincoln, NE
54 MacLin, Justin	6-4/237	Jr.	Memphis, TN
59 Rasco, Jermauria	6-3/255	Jr.	Shreveport, LA
95 Thomas, Quentin	6-3/294	So.	Breaux Bridge, LA

LINEBACKERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
25 Alexander, Kwon	6-2/215	So.	Oxford, AL
57 Barrow, Lamin	6-2/232	Sr.	Marrero, LA
56 Farris, Andrew	6-0/210	Fr.	Shreveport, LA
22 Feist, Ronnie	6-2/230	So.	Edgard, LA
48 Fruge, Seth	5-11/189	Sr.	Welsh, LA
51 Granier, Trey	6-1/227	Fr.	Thibodaux, LA
55 Hardnett, Jarrett	6-1/233	Sr.	Baton Rouge, LA
45 Jones, Deion	6-2/202	So.	New Orleans, LA
58 Jones, Tahj	6-2/205	Sr.	Sulphur, LA
53 Leger, Grant	6-1/215	So.	Metairie, LA
23 Louis, Lamar	6-0/220	So.	Breaux Bridge, LA
17 O'Brien, Myles	6-2/210	Jr.	Metairie, LA
56 Patty, Logan	6-0/216	Fr.	Baton Rouge, LA
42 Petty, Michael	5-10/185	So.	Alexandria, LA
35 Phillips, Lorenzo	6-2/215	Fr.	Patterson, LA
52 Pittman, Christian	6-0/205	So.	New Orleans, LA
31 Welter, D.J.	6-0/226	Jr.	Crowley, LA

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
32 Collins, Jalen	6-2/195	So.	Olive Branch, MS
34 Eugene, Micah	5-11/190	So.	Lafayette, LA
27 Gibson, Matthew	6-0/184	Fr.	Baton Rouge, LA
36 Holmes, Kavahra	6-2/180	Fr.	Breaux Bridge, LA
29 LeBeau, Tommy	6-1/190	So.	Monroe, LA
6 Loston, Craig	6-2/205	Sr.	Houston, TX
26 Martin, Ronald	6-1/202	Jr.	White Castle, LA
28 Mills, Jalen	6-0/185	So.	DeSoto, TX
19 Raymond, Derrick	6-1/175	Fr.	New Orleans, LA
39 Sandoval, Jerquinick	6-2/190	So.	Boutte, LA
21 Sullivan, Tre'	5-9/182	Jr.	Donaldsonville, LA
13 Thomas, Dwayne	6-0/175	Fr.	New Orleans, LA
12 Thompson, Corey	6-2/210	So.	Missouri City, TX

SPECIALISTS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
53 Boudreaux, Logan (LS)	5-11/215	So.	St. Amant, LA
30 Delahoussaye, Colby (K)	5-10/174	Fr.	New Iberia, LA
30 Domingue, Trent (K/P)	6-0/177	Fr.	Mandeville, LA
50 Ferguson, Reid (LS)	6-2/235	So.	Buford, GA
30 Hairston, James (K)	6-1/220	Jr.	Dallas, TX
38 Keehn, Jamie (P)	6-4/222	So.	Miners Rest, Australia

## 2012 RESULTS

RECORD: 10-3, 6-2 (SEC)

Sept. 1	North Texas	W	41-14
Sept. 8	Washington	W	41-3
Sept. 15	Idaho	W	63-14
Sept. 22	at Auburn	W	12-10
Sept. 29	Towson	W	38-22
Oct. 6	at Florida	L	6-14
Oct. 13	South Carolina	W	23-21
Oct. 20	at Texas A&M	W	24-19
Nov. 3	Alabama	L	17-21
Nov. 10	Mississippi State	W	37-17
Nov. 17	Ole Miss	W	41-35
Nov. 23	at Arkansas	W	20-13
Dec. 31	vs. Clemson #	L	24-25

#Chick-fil-A Bowl



JALEN MILLS

## 2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Zach Mettenberger	352	207	2,609	12	7
Stephen Rivers	2	0	0	0	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Jeremy Hill	142	755	5.3	12
Kenny Hilliard	82	464	5.7	6
Michael Ford	71	392	5.5	3
Spencer Ware	94	367	3.9	1

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Jarvis Landry	56	573	10.2	5
Odell Beckham Jr.	43	713	16.6	2
Kadron Boone	26	348	13.4	4
James Wright	18	242	13.4	0
Spencer Ware	18	230	12.8	1

**KICKING:** Drew Allenman, 21-29 FGs, 44-44 XPs, 107 points

**TACKLES:** Kevin Minter, 130; Lamin Barrow, 104

**SACKS:** Sam Montgomery, 8

**INTERCEPTIONS:** Tharold Simon, 4

Returning Players in Bold

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	29.8 ppg	8	58
Rushing	173.7 ypg	6	50
Passing	200.5 ypg	11	92
Total	374.2 ypg	10	85

Defense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	17.5 ppg	3	12
Rushing	101.6 ypg	3	9
Passing	206.0 ypg	6	28
Total	307.6 ypg	3	8

TO Margin	Per Game	SEC	National
+16	+1.23	1	5

## SCOUTING THE TIGERS

### OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP LSU

"(Defensive coordinator) John Chavis, he's done the same stuff schematically for what feels like forever. It's not very difficult. They do a lot of two-man, a lot of Tampa 2. That's one thing that he's just not going to change. ... I don't think they will be the same up front at all. They lost a lot of players. I just don't think they are going to be the same. In my opinion, there's a slow, steady decline of that program. They are going to get the best of the best in Louisiana, but even back when Nick (Saban) was there, they just don't have the same type of players as some other places. Don't get me wrong, they've been really good for awhile. But they are losing a lot on defense. Athletically, they can reload up front. But developing fundamentally sound players, that takes time, time they might not have this year. So I'm not sure they recover that quickly. ... If you're not sound, you'll get knocked down. ... (Quarterback) Zach Mettenberger, to me, is very average. It's going to be really interesting because their offensive coordinator was the offensive line coach, so they had single receiver play-action and just loaded up on the ball. With Cam Cameron coming in as the offensive coordinator, it will be a different offense. It's probably going to open up things a lot more, and Mettenberger will probably be a better fit with doing that. I can't answer whether he can handle that."



showed flashes of a bright future. But both also have to get better across the board for the secondary to improve after a late-season fade cost the Tigers wins against Alabama and Clemson and nearly cost them in other games. Should either falter, the freshman class is loaded with talent, especially if the speedy Jeryl Brazil settles in at cornerback, where his knack for coming up with the ball combined with world-class speed could remind LSU fans of Tyrann Mathieu. The safety spots seem to be in good hands, with senior Craig Loston — if he can avoid the nagging injuries that have plagued him throughout his career — and junior Ronald Martin. Talented sophomores Corey Thompson and Micah Eugene are quality backups.

**SPECIALISTS** Yes, LSU even got stung by early departures in the kicking department when wacky but talented punter Brad Wing left for the NFL (though he went undrafted). But another strong-legged Australian, Jamie Keehn, showed his value in the bowl game when he connected on nine punts for a 44.6-yard average. The placekicking spot is up for grabs between junior James Hairston, who has kicked off the last few seasons, and walk-on Colby Delahoussaye. Hairston has a cannon for a leg but has been erratic on field goals. Brazil has a chance to step in as a lighting-in-a-bottle return man, although Beckham produced a pair of punt-return TDs a year ago and could remain in that role.

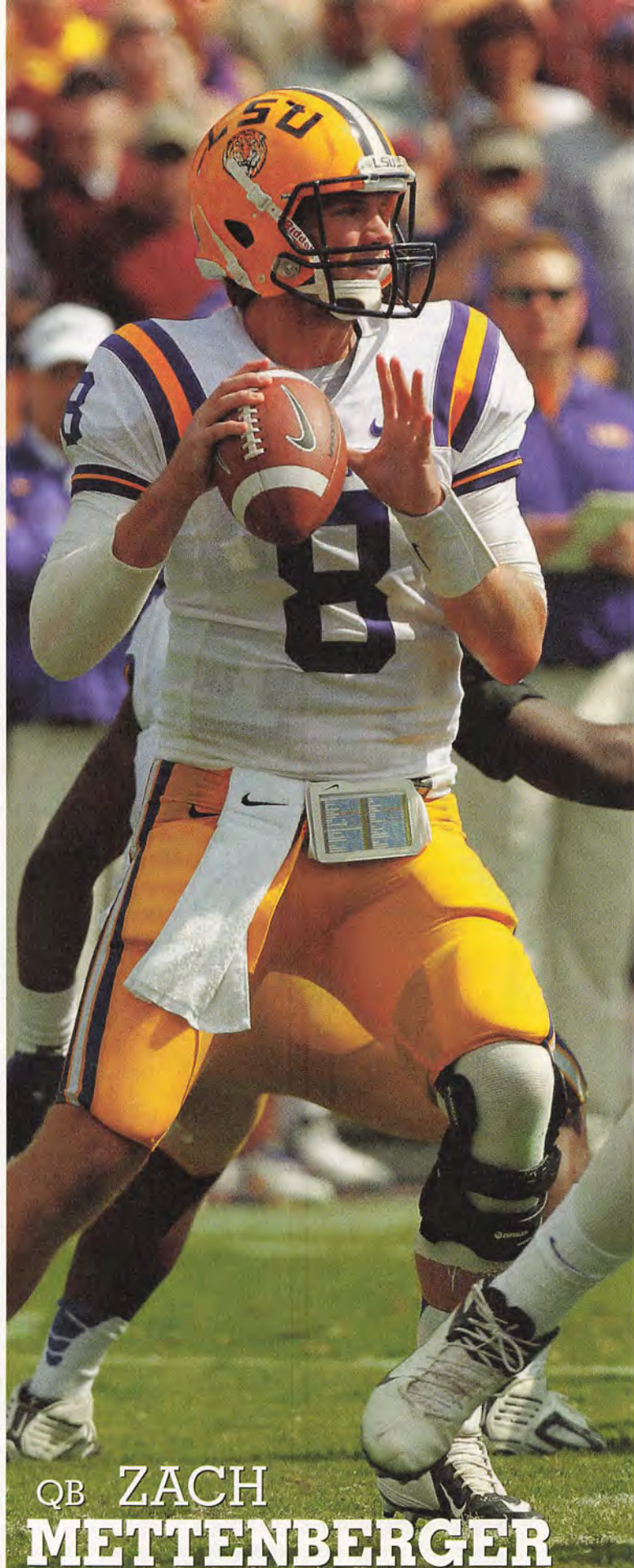
## OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

**CAN CAM MAKE A DIFFERENCE?** The offensive roller coaster of the last two seasons prompted LSU coach Les Miles to make a major change with his offensive staff, and the result was longtime NFL offensive coordinator Cam Cameron joining the Tigers and Greg Studrawa shifting back to full-time duties as the offensive line coach. The relationship between Miles and Cameron is much deeper than coach-offensive coordinator, though. The two were assistants at Michigan together from 1987-93 and formed a bond of friendship that includes each man standing in the other's wedding. Cameron, a former head coach at Indiana and with the Miami Dolphins, was a two-sport athlete for the Hoosiers and played for two coaches of some renown — Bob Knight in basketball and Lee Corso in football.

**READY TO RELOAD** Since John Chavis arrived as LSU's defensive coordinator after the disastrous 2008 season, the Tigers have reclaimed a spot among the country's elite defenses with a litany of players who have gone on to play in the NFL, some of whom left en masse this past offseason. But the man dubbed "Chief" isn't rattled by the concept of reshaping a unit with mostly new faces — and more to the point, mostly with sophomores and freshmen. "This is what happens in football," Chavis said early in spring practice. "Real good players move on. We've done a good job recruiting here. Certainly the biggest thing is creating depth. Some new names will come to the front. It's a matter of getting the right people in the right places to make sure we get our best team on the field."

**ARE YOU MY BOY, BLUE?** The Tigers avoided major injuries last season, but the one they did suffer created a ripple effect in a talented backfield. Alfred Blue began the season in a blaze of glory, with a pair of 100-yard games, but his knee crumpled against Idaho, and he never played a down again. Now, LSU's most versatile back is ready to return, which should add a nice element to the Cameron-coached offense. Blue is the best pass-protector of the running back corps and could be a very reliable option as a receiver — even splitting out wide at times to confound defenses.

**WHO'S NO. 2?** Senior quarterback Zach Mettenberger is as entrenched as the starter as anyone on the Tigers' roster, so he won't spend a lot of time looking over his shoulder. But who is his immediate backup? Sophomore Stephen Rivers — the younger brother of Philip Rivers — is the only other quarterback who took a snap last season, and junior Rob Bolden is also back after transferring from Penn State. Two promising freshmen — Hayden Rettig from Los Angeles and Anthony Jennings from Marietta, Ga. — arrived in Baton Rouge in time for the spring. All four backups got playing time in the spring, but it was Jennings — more of a dual-threat than the other three — who seemed to emerge. Miles has shown a tendency in the past to lean on a quarterback who can make plays with his feet, and that's not a skill in Mettenberger's tool box. Whether or not Jennings' fleet feet fit with Cameron's scheme remains to be seen.



QB ZACH  
METTENBERGER



# 2013 SIGNEES

Much of the 2013 recruiting class was wrapped up before LSU's 2012 season ended, and in retrospect it is evident that the Tigers' staff had a pretty good idea that the underclassmen were about to depart. LSU reloaded at the three spots where attrition hit — the defensive line, secondary and at tight end.

At least four of the defensive linemen could play right away, if not start — Greg Gilmore, Christian LaCouture, Frank Herron and Maquedius Bain. Same is true of the new defensive backs, particularly two high-level in-state recruits, Tre'Davious White and Jeryl Brazil. The two incoming tight ends, DeSean Smith from nearby Lake Charles and junior college transfer Logan Stokes, could see time as well — Smith as more of a receiving threat and Stokes as the sixth offensive lineman when the Tigers are in a power run formation.

## BREAKDOWN BY POSITION

Defensive Linemen	7
Offensive Linemen	5
Wide Receivers	4
Defensive Backs	3
Linebackers	3
Quarterbacks	2
Tight Ends	2
Athletes	1

## BY STATE

Louisiana	12
Florida	3
Georgia	3
California	2
North Carolina	2
Alabama	1
Illinois	1
Nebraska	1
New Jersey	1
Tennessee	1

Besides those three areas of need, the LSU coaches also filled in some important gaps, most notably with two of the highest-profile quarterback recruits in Les Miles' nine-year tenure in Hayden Rettig and Anthony Jennings. Both young quarterbacks were on campus by January and pushed veteran backups Stephen Rivers and Rob Bolden for the No. 2 job.

LSU also secured one of the country's top linebackers/rush ends in Kendell Beckwith, who could start from Day 1. Another big-name recruit from Louisiana, John Diarse, could team with Avery Peterson — the younger brother of former LSU star Patrick Peterson — to give the Tigers a solid one-two freshman receiving punch. There was also a big haul on the offensive line, with four freshmen

and junior college transfer Fehoko Fanaika signing with LSU.

Overall, 20 of the Tigers' newcomers are rated as 4-star or higher, with Gilmore, White and Herron all garnering 5-star status from at least one of the recruiting networks. That added up to another top-10 class under Miles, which has become the norm in his tenure.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ...

**DE • TASHAWN BOWER • SOMERVILLE, NJ**

Anybody who is a recruiting junkie lives for the drama of a last-minute change of heart. Bower certainly played his part in February. The 4-star defensive end from Immaculata High in Somerville, N.J., took his decision to the final minutes on National Signing Day.

Nobody knew his decision — including the coaching staffs waiting for his National Letter of Intent — until he sent the paperwork. That created a ripple of surprise at two other different SEC schools because Bower had been committed to Auburn since his junior season and was in discussions with the Florida staff until the final minute.

"This morning I thought maybe Florida, then LSU," Bower told the *Newark Star-Ledger* on Signing Day. "You have to go with your gut. LSU will be the best thing for me. It was really last-minute, about two minutes before I walked in. This is where my heart led me. With the great relationship I have with coach Brick Haley, and coach (Les) Miles, I felt really comfortable."

LSU gets a talented player who will play right away and could even push for a starting job. All four recruiting sites peg Bower as a top-25 player at the end spot, and with Sam Montgomery and Barkevious Mingo headed to the NFL, there are snaps to be had in Baton Rouge.

**DT MAQUEDIUS BAIN** 6-5, 286, FT. LAUDERDALE, FL  
A 4-star prospect by ESPN and 247Sports. Participant in the 2013 Under Armour All-American Game.

**LB KENDELL BECKWITH** 6-3, 225, JACKSON, LA  
A consensus 4-star recruit by all of the services. An Under Armour All-American.

**OL JOSH BOUTTE** 6-4, 324, NEW IBERIA, LA  
Participated in the 2013 U.S. Army All-American Bowl. 247Sports ranked him as the nation's No. 8 offensive guard and the No. 4 overall prospect in Louisiana.

**DE TASHAWN BOWER** 6-5, 241, SOMERVILLE, NJ  
Ranked as the No. 11 defensive end in the nation by ESPN.

**ATH JERYL BRAZIL** 5-9, 181, LORANGER, LA  
A 4-star prospect according to ESPN, Rivals, Scout and 247Sports. Rated as Louisiana's No. 3 best overall prospect by ESPN.

**WR JOHN DIARSE** 6-1, 205, MONROE, LA  
Ranked as the No. 10 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals. Named a PrepStar Top 300 All-American.

**OL ANDY DODD** 6-3, 330, LINDALE, GA  
Ranked No. 180 nationally and No. 9 among offensive guards in the ESPN 300.

**OL FEHOKO FANAICA** 6-6, 340, SACRAMENTO, CA  
Powerful run-blocker who started at guard for two seasons at College of San Mateo.

**DT GREG GILMORE** 6-4, 275, HOPE MILLS, NC  
Rated as a 5-star prospect by Scout and a 4-star by ESPN, 247Sports and Rivals.

**DE FRANK HERRON** 6-5, 245, MEMPHIS, TN  
Rated as a 5-star recruit by Rivals and PrepStar and as a 4-star by ESPN, 247Sports and Scout.

**DB RICKEY JEFFERSON** 5-10, 187, DESTREHAN, LA  
Ranked No. 185 overall and No. 23 among wide receivers in the ESPN 300.

**QB ANTHONY JENNINGS** 6-2, 205, MARIETTA, GA  
A member of the ESPN 300 as the No. 221 prospect in the nation and a member of the Rivals 250 as the No. 127 prospect in the nation.

**LB MELVIN JONES** 6-3, 245, LAKE CHARLES, LA  
Listed as a Top 300 All-American and the No. 10 inside linebacker by PrepStar. Earned 4-star rating from 247Sports and Scout.

**DT CHRISTIAN LACOUTURE** 6-5, 290, LINCOLN, NE  
Rated the No. 2 prospect in the state of Nebraska by 247Sports.

**WR QUANTAVIUS LESLIE** 6-4, 190, HOGANSVILLE, GA  
A 4-star prospect according to ESPN, Rivals and 247Sports. Listed as the No. 5 wide receiver in the nation by 247Sports.

**OL K.J. MALONE** 6-3, 307, RUSTON, LA  
Rated a 4-star recruit and the No. 18 prospect in Louisiana by ESPN.

**DE LEWIS NEAL** 6-1, 234, WILSON, NC  
Rated a 4-star recruit by ESPN and a 3-star by Rivals, 247Sports and Scout.

**DE MJ PATTERSON** 6-2, 218, WINNFIELD, LA  
Rated the No. 20 weak-side defensive end in the country and the No. 18 player in Louisiana by 247Sports.

**WR AVERY PETERSON** 6-1, 180, POMPANO BEACH, FL  
Ranked the No. 23 wide receiver prospect in the nation by ESPN.

**OL ETHAN POCIC** 6-7, 287, LEMONT, IL  
A 4-star prospect according to Rivals and ESPN. Rated as the No. 3 offensive lineman in the nation by Rivals.

**QB HAYDEN RETTIG** 6-2, 201, LOS ANGELES, CA  
A consensus 4-star prospect by all of the major recruiting outlets. Honored as a 2013 U.S. Army All-American.

**LB DUKE RILEY** 6-1, 205, NEW ORLEANS, LA  
A 4-star recruit and the No. 17 prospect in Louisiana according to ESPN.

**DB RASHARD ROBINSON** 6-1, 163, POMPANO BEACH, FL  
Earned a 4-star rating by 247Sports and Rivals.

**TE DESEAN SMITH** 6-4, 226, LAKE CHARLES, LA  
Consensus 4-star prospect, selected to the 2013 U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

**WR KEVIN SPEARS** 6-3, 190, NEW ORLEANS, LA  
Rated as a 4-star recruit by ESPN and Rivals.

**TE LOGAN STOKES** 6-5, 253, MUSCLE SHOALS, AL  
Played two seasons at Northeast Mississippi Community College.

**DB TRE'DAVIOUS WHITE** 5-10, 170, SHREVEPORT, LA  
A 5-star recruit rated as the nation's No. 2 cornerback and No. 9 overall prospect by 247Sports.





# MISSISSIPPI STATE BULLDOGS

NATIONAL FORECAST: 41 // SEC WEST PREDICTION: 5

**D**an Mullen has brought success to Mississippi State, with 29 wins and three bowl appearances over four seasons. But there is a sense that it's time for the program to go a step further and be more competitive in the always-brutal SEC West Division. To do that, MSU has to prove it has the level of talent and depth Mullen has been working so hard to establish.

Another seven- or eight-win season isn't going to satisfy the Bulldogs. The good news is that Mullen appears to have the best depth on defense he's ever had, and it's being led now by Geoff Collins, who was promoted to the coordinator position in the offseason. Also new on that side of the ball are defensive line coach David Turner and cornerbacks coach Deshea Townsend.

**QUARTERBACKS** Tyler Russell and Mullen are both entering their fifth season at MSU, the former having signed a couple of months after the latter took over the head coaching job. Russell has seen every wrinkle and shift of Mullen's spread offense as it has evolved over the years. Entering his second season as a full-time starter, the 6'4" Russell is working alongside Mullen in an effort to take the Bulldogs to even greater offensive heights. Russell wrote his name in the record books in 2012, passing for 2,897 yards, 24 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. However, his season ended poorly in losses to rival Ole Miss and Northwestern, in the Gator Bowl. He threw a combined six interceptions in those two games. Coaches don't seem too concerned about that finish, and they're entrusting him with more of a say in the offense. "(Mullen) trusts me to let him know the things I like and things I don't like and things I feel comfortable with and don't feel comfortable with," Russell says. One thing Russell has always been comfortable with is spreading the wealth, which should serve him well in an offense that, right now, doesn't have a go-to pass-catcher.

**RUNNING BACKS** The Bulldogs had a lot of depth and talent in the backfield last season, and all of it returns. LaDarius Perkins (1,024 yards, eight TDs) is a senior and the lead horse, but he shouldn't have to pull too heavy of a load. Sophomores Josh Robinson and Derrick Milton showed promise last season, with the former featuring a physical style complemented by quickness and speed. Robinson will make a push to get even more snaps this year, and so too might Milton, who for the first time at MSU is completely healthy. Junior Nick Griffin is coming back from the second ACL injury of his career, and his size (6'0", 225 pounds) would be very useful in softening up defenses. All four running backs should get snaps because Perkins is not the type of back who can average 20-to-25 carries for the entire season. But he does have a role in the passing game, and his backups have been working to increase their competency in that area. The question is: Will MSU's running game be up to SEC standards? In its four regular-season losses last season — which came over a five-week span — the Bulldogs averaged 55.5 yards rushing.

**RECEIVERS** The Bulldogs are starting over, with all three starters from last season lost to graduation and a new position coach (Billy Gonzales) taking over. The early indications from spring practice were that Jameon Lewis, a junior, would be taking a lead role for the unit, which is a bit surprising. Over his first two years, the speedy slot man had a minimal impact, partly because he was backing up Chad Bumphis, and partly because Lewis wasn't doing things quite the way coaches wanted him to. He seems to be embracing a larger role now that he has the opportunity. "He comes to practice every day ready to work," junior receiver Jeremy Chappelle said during the spring. "That's one thing about Jameon, you don't have to question his workability." Chappelle, a junior college transfer, will have a shot to start, but he'll have to beat out junior Robert Johnson or sophomore Joe Morrow. It's hard to say if the Bulldogs will be better at receiver this fall, but there is certainly more size and potentially more downfield capability. Tight end Malcolm Johnson, a junior, has averaged 18.0 yards per catch over the last two years, and he possesses the best set of hands on the team.

## 2013 SCHEDULE

### AUGUST

31 vs. Oklahoma State #

### SEPTEMBER

7 Alcorn State

14 at Auburn

21 Troy

### OCTOBER

5 LSU

12 Bowling Green

24 Kentucky

### NOVEMBER

2 at South Carolina

9 at Texas A&M

16 Alabama

23 vs. Arkansas %

28 Ole Miss

#Houston, TX %Little Rock, AR



TYLER RUSSELL

## THE VERDICT

### 2013 PROJECTION: 6-6, 3-5 SEC

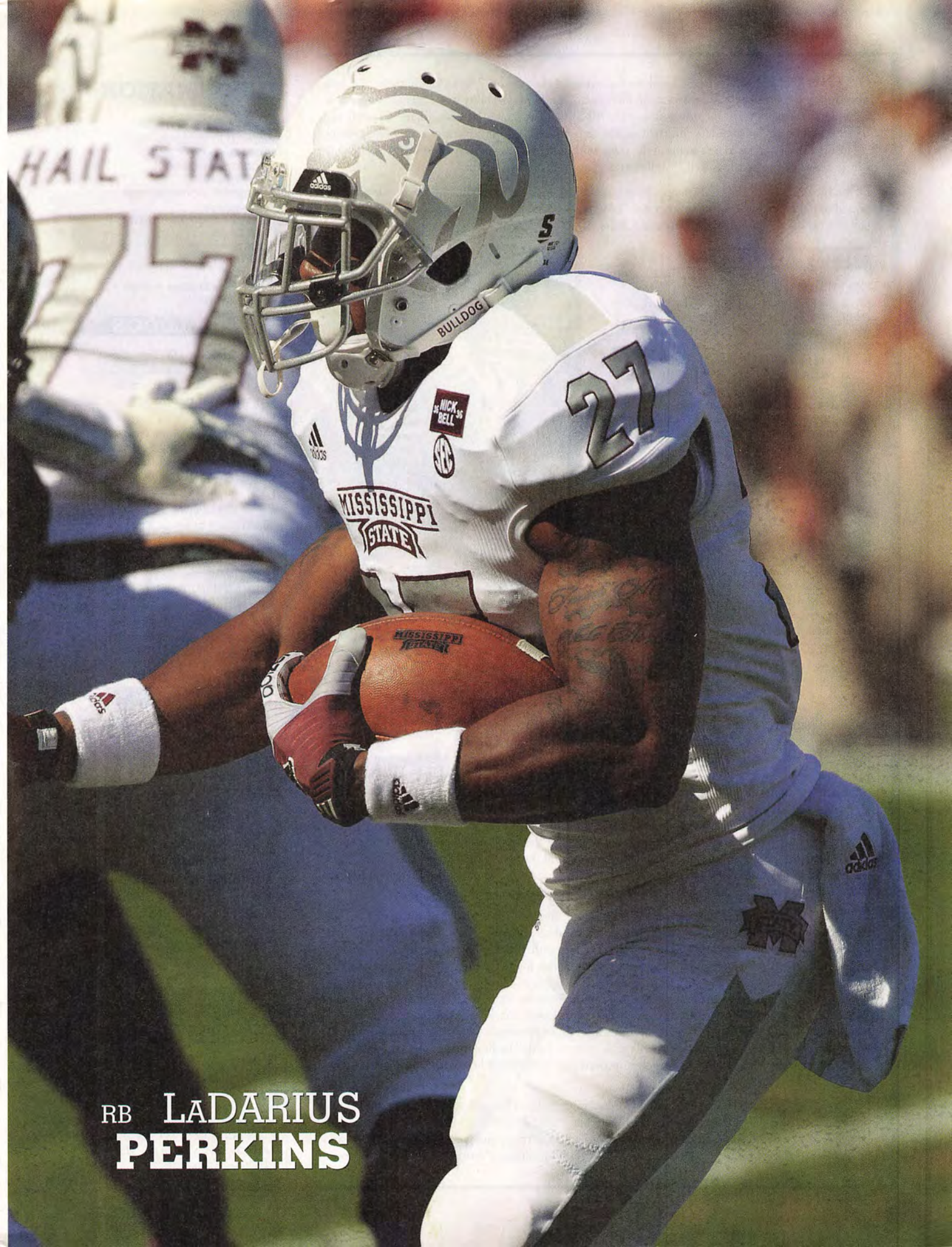
A disappointing finish — 1-5 in the final six games — prompted Dan Mullen to make a few changes to his staff, including promoting Geoff Collins to call the plays on defense. The Bulldogs return enough talent on both sides of the ball to make a fourth consecutive bowl game a realistic expectation. However, it will be difficult to top last year's eight wins, especially with a revamped receiving corps and a defense that must replace its three best players. A huge key will be the play of quarterback Tyler Russell. He was outstanding early in the 2012 season but struggled down the stretch against better competition. Postseason: BBVA Compass Bowl vs. UCF

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Tim Clark/Athlon Sports





RB **LADARIUS**  
**PERKINS**



**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** Russell took far too many hits last season. The tackles in particular took a beating, and there will be a sharp focus on line coach John Hevesy's ability make this a stronger SEC unit. Four starters return, including first-team All-SEC guard Gabe Jackson. Blaine Clausell and Charles Siddoway return at left and right tackle, respectively, and both must play at a higher level. "(The offensive line) has to be a staple of the team, with some of the experience coming back and with a little depth coming back as well," Mullen says. "I want to see that depth."

**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** Mississippi State has stocked up at this position, and the Bulldogs are expected to field a stronger unit than they did last year. Collins is especially high on junior P.J. Jones, a tackle who he says is a mixture between former

## DEPTH CHART

### OFFENSE (6)

WR	81	Robert Johnson (Jr.)	83	Jeremy Chapelle (Jr.)
WR	16	Joe Morrow (So.)	86	Fred Brown (Fr.)
WR	4	Jameon Lewis (Jr.)	80	Brandon Holloway (Fr.)
LT	75	Blaine Clausell (Jr.)	58	Justin Senior (Fr.)
LG	61	Gabe Jackson (Sr.)	66	Ben Beckwith (Jr.)
C	63	Dillon Day (So.)	55	Dylan Holley (Sr.)
RG	70	Justin Malone (So.)	59	Archie Muniz (Jr.)
RT	77	Charles Siddoway (Sr.)	78	Damien Robinson (Jr.)
TE	6	Malcolm Johnson (Jr.)	18	Brandon Hill (Jr.)
QB	17	Tyler Russell (Sr.)	15	Dak Prescott (So.)
RB	27	LaDarius Perkins (Sr.)	34	Josh Robinson (So.)

### DEFENSE (5)

DE	91	Preston Smith (Jr.)	48	Ryan Brown (So.)
DT	92	Kaleb Eulls (Jr.)	88	Nick James (So.)
DT	93	P.J. Jones (Jr.)	98	Curtis Virges (Jr.)
DE	90	Denico Autry (Sr.)	47	A.J. Jefferson (Fr.)
LB	22	Matt Wells (Jr.)	39	Richie Brown (Fr.)
LB	50	Benardrick McKinney (So.)	52	Ferlando Bohanna (Jr.)
LB	51	Deontae Skinner (Sr.)	12	Chris Hughes (Sr.)
CB	24	Jamerson Love (Jr.)	14	Cedric Jiles (So.)
CB	20	Justin Cox (Jr.)	37	Taveze Calhoun (So.)
SS	30	Jay Hughes (Jr.)	46	Kendrick Market (So.)
FS	5	Nickoe Whitley (Sr.)	38	Dee Arrington (Jr.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	40	Devon Bell (So.)	KR	27	LaDarius Perkins (Sr.)
P	39	Baker Swendenburg (Sr.)	PR	4	Jameon Lewis (Jr.)



16

MSU was plus-16 in turnover margin last season, which tied with LSU for first in the SEC and fifth nationally.

Bulldog standouts Fletcher Cox and Josh Boyd. "P.J. Jones, last half of the season, was as fine of a defensive tackle as there is in this league. He plays with a motor," says Collins, adding that Jones could have a breakout year in 2013. Jones will have plenty of company on the interior, including Kaleb Eulls, who will likely move full-time from end to tackle. Speaking of defensive ends, MSU didn't get as much as it wanted out of that group last year, but there were promising signs. Things started to really click for junior college transfer Denico Autry toward season's end, and Collins still shakes his head at a fumble recovery and return Autry made in the Gator Bowl. "That was just reading and recognizing, preparation, film study. He made a great play," Collins says. "But just who he was at the end of the season and who he's been through the offseason — he is what we had envisioned when he got here." Junior Preston Smith will be the other starting end. Last season, he led the team with 4.5 sacks in a reserve role.

**LINEBACKERS** Collins wants his linebackers very active and aggressive, and this group is built for that style. Sophomore Benardrick McKinney returns to the middle and anchors a deep set of linebackers. McKinney is the team's leading returning tackler with 102. Collins wants to have a "circle of eight," as redshirt freshman Richie Brown put it, that he can rotate through during a game. As linebackers coach the previous two seasons, Collins didn't always have that sort of depth, but he does now. It's an athletic group, from the rangy McKinney to the versatile Matt Wells to the speedy Ferlando Bohanna. The style Collins is implementing suits these players well, and he plans to maximize their playmaking abilities. Beniquez Brown, a promising redshirt freshman, says that Collins likes for his linebackers to "roam around" and make plays all over the field. The linebackers are expected to play a big role in what MSU hopes is a much-improved pass rush. Guys like Wells and Chris Hughes could cause trouble off the edges.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** Gone is Johnthan Banks, last year's Jim Thorpe Award winner, as well as two other starters, including interceptions leader Darius Slay (five picks). What MSU has, however, might be better from a depth standpoint. Jamerson Love, a junior, is the most experienced cornerback, and Mullen is expecting him to be "the next great player" at his position. There is other young, unproven

## TEAM INFORMATION

### HEAD COACH

Dan Mullen

### RECORD AT SCHOOL

29-22 (4 years)

### RECORD AT SCHOOL

29-22 (4 years)

### OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Les Koenning

### DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Geoff Collins

### LOCATION

Starkville, MS

### STADIUM

Davis Wade Stadium at Scott Field (55,082)

## KEY BULLDOGS

**Gabe Jackson, G** The senior made first-team All-SEC last season and anchors a line with four returning starters.

**Tyler Russell, QB** Fifth-year senior looking to build on a year in which he threw for a school-record 24 touchdowns but struggled down the stretch.

**LaDarius Perkins, RB** Senior rushed for a career-high 1,024 yards and is also dangerous catching the ball out of the backfield.

**Denico Autry, DE** Things started to come together for the junior college transfer in the last half of 2012. Could have a big senior season.

**Benardrick McKinney, LB** Just a sophomore, has already established himself as a force. Top returning tackler (102).

## KEY LOSSES

**Johnthan Banks, CB** Finished career with 16 interceptions, tied for most in school history, and won the Jim Thorpe Award as a senior.

**Chad Bumphis, WR** Slot receiver led SEC in touchdown catches last season with 12 and came through big in the clutch.

**Arceto Clark, WR** Reliable pass-catcher had 36 receptions for 487 yards in 2012; started 36 games over his final three seasons.

**Cam Lawrence, LB** Led team in tackles last year (120); was steady presence from weak-side linebacker spot.

**Darius Slay, CB** Overshadowed by Banks, Slay made his mark and had team-high five interceptions last year.

## RISEING STAR

Defensive back **Justin Cox** recorded 11 interceptions in two years at East Mississippi Community College, and now he's expected to step in and start at cornerback for Mississippi State. The Bulldogs lost both corners, including All-American Johnthan Banks, but Cox has the requisite skills to be a top cover man.





# 2013 MISSISSIPPI STATE ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
15 Prescott, Dak	6-2/230	So.	Haughton, LA
17 Russell, Tyler	6-4/220	Sr.	Meridian, MS

RUNNING BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
26 Akins, Kasey	5-6/185	Sr.	Starkville, MS
22 Creekmore, Josh	5-6/185	Fr.	New Albany, MS
7 Griffin, Nick	6-0/225	Jr.	New Augusta, MS
28 Milton, Derrick	6-0/210	So.	Pineville, LA
27 Perkins, LaDarius	5-10/195	Sr.	Greenville, MS
34 Robinson, Josh	5-9/225	So.	Franklinton, LA
31 Watkins, Vincent	5-9/145	Fr.	Disputana, VA

RECEIVERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
86 Brown, Fred	6-1/185	Fr.	Jackson, MS
25 Carr, Michael	6-1/215	Sr.	West Point, MS
83 Chappelle, Jeremy	6-3/210	Jr.	Tyler, TX
14 Cowart, Sam	6-1/210	Jr.	Magee, MS
9 Hand, Josh	6-0/205	Jr.	Cumming, GA
80 Holloway, Brandon	5-8/165	Fr.	Tampa, FL
81 Johnson, Robert	6-1/225	Jr.	Hattiesburg, MS
4 Lewis, Jameon	5-9/195	Jr.	Tylertown, MS
16 Morrow, Joe	6-4/210	So.	Ocean Springs, MS
87 Nicks, Javous	5-11/170	Fr.	Brandon, MS
11 Sanders, Ricco	5-11/195	Sr.	Duncan, SC

TIGHT ENDS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
88 Bradley, Hunter	6-3/235	Fr.	Collierville, TN
18 Hill, Brandon	6-2/240	Jr.	Columbus, MS
44 Holmes, Christian	6-1/220	Jr.	Puckett, MS
6 Johnson, Malcolm	6-2/235	Jr.	Tuscaloosa, AL
85 Samuel, Artimus	6-2/260	Fr.	Columbus, GA
89 Walley, Gus	6-4/245	Fr.	Richton, MS
82 Warren, Rufus	6-7/265	So.	Indianola, MS

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
66 Beckwith, Ben	6-3/305	Jr.	Benton, MS
71 Carter, Cole	6-4/290	Fr.	Caledonia, MS
75 Clausell, Blaine	6-7/310	Jr.	Mobile, AL
79 Cunningham, Hunter	6-4/320	So.	Maben, MS
63 Day, Dillon	6-4/300	Jr.	West Monroe, LA
62 Desper, Devon	6-4/300	Fr.	Madison, MS
55 Holley, Dylan	6-3/290	Sr.	D'Iberville, MS
61 Jackson, Gabe	6-4/335	Sr.	Liberty, MS
69 Lacy, Rodney	5-11/290	Fr.	Birmingham, AL
70 Malone, Justin	6-7/320	So.	Madison, MS
59 Muniz, Archie	6-5/300	Jr.	Houston, TX
78 Robinson, Damien	6-8/335	Jr.	Olive Branch, MS
58 Senior, Justin	6-5/300	Fr.	Montreal, QC
77 Siddoway, Charles	6-7/305	Sr.	Eugene, OR
72 Sparkman, Patrick	6-4/285	Sr.	Walnut Grove, MS
73 Thompson, Paul	6-3/275	Jr.	Madison, NJ

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
94 Adams, Nelson	6-3/295	Fr.	Brandon, MS
90 Autry, Denico	6-6/265	Sr.	Albemarle, NC
48 Brown, Ryan	6-6/260	So.	New Orleans, LA
72 Chapman, Winston	6-2/235	So.	Fairhope, AL

49 Dale, Torrey	6-6/250	Fr.	Kenner, LA
92 Eulls, Kaleb	6-4/290	Jr.	Yazoo City, MS
54 Evans, Quay	6-3/310	So.	Morton, MS
99 Harris, John	6-5/235	So.	Boynton Beach, FL
56 Harrison-Gay, Corvell	6-3/265	Sr.	Laurel, MS
88 James, Nick	6-5/345	So.	Long Beach, MS
47 Jefferson, A.J.	6-3/260	Fr.	Summit, MS
93 Jones, P.J.	6-3/295	Jr.	Tupelo, MS
91 Smith, Preston	6-6/255	Jr.	Stone Mountain, GA
98 Virges, Curtis	6-3/315	Jr.	West Point, MS
95 Washington, Jordan	6-2/290	Fr.	Sugar Hill, GA

LINEBACKERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
52 Bohanna, Fernando	6-0/225	Jr.	Memphis, TN
42 Brown, Beniquez	6-1/225	Fr.	Florence, AL
39 Brown, Richie	6-2/235	Fr.	Long Beach, MS
12 Hughes, Chris	6-1/225	Sr.	Mobile, AL
74 McCray, Daniel	6-0/250	Jr.	Center Point, AL
50 McKinney, Benardrick	6-5/235	So.	Tunica, MS
43 Muniz, Ivan	6-1/220	Jr.	Houston, TX
51 Skinner, Deontae	6-2/250	Sr.	Macon, MS
22 Wells, Matthew	6-2/215	Jr.	Monticello, MS

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
29 Antoine, Quadry	5-10/215	Fr.	Belle Chasse, LA
38 Arrington, Dee	6-1/220	Jr.	Wiggins, MS
26 Baldwin, James	5-10/195	So.	Birmingham, AL
32 Bartlett, Brandyn	5-11/195	Fr.	Dacula, GA
37 Calhoun, Taveze	6-1/180	So.	Morton, MS
33 Coman, Kivon	6-3/195	Fr.	Sheffield, AL
20 Cox, Justin	6-3/195	Jr.	West Point, MS
34 Davis, Brandon	5-9/170	Fr.	Memphis, TN
17 Evans, Deonte	5-10/210	Fr.	McComb, MS
39 Hodges, Michael	5-10/195	Fr.	Aberdeen, MS
30 Hughes, Jay	5-11/195	Jr.	Hattiesburg, MS
45 Jackson, Zachary	6-1/215	So.	Heidelberg, MS
14 Jiles, Cedric	5-10/180	So.	Clinton, MS
35 Long, Johnathan	5-11/190	Fr.	Martinez, GA
24 Love, Jamerson	5-10/175	Jr.	Aberdeen, MS
46 Market, Kendrick	5-10/190	So.	Batesville, MS
41 McCaleb, Rishunn	6-3/200	Sr.	Indianola, MS
31 Miller, Tyrell	5-9/175	So.	Hampton, VA
2 Redmond, Will	6-0/190	Fr.	Memphis, TN
29 Rogers, Justin	5-11/200	Jr.	Starkville, MS
28 Ward, DeAndre	6-0/205	Fr.	Wetumpka, AL
5 Whitley, Nickoe	6-1/205	Sr.	Jackson, MS

SPECIALISTS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
40 Bell, Devon (K)	6-2/195	So.	Vicksburg, MS
31 Earhart, Taylor (K)	6-1/180	Sr.	Olive Branch, MS
53 Egan, Brian (K)	5-11/210	Sr.	Prattville, AL
31 Goodwin, Will (K)	6-0/180	Jr.	Starkville, MS
39 Mordecai, Mike (P)	6-3/195	Fr.	Madison, MS
40 Sobieski, Evan (K)	5-8/180	Fr.	Hattiesburg, MS
39 Swendenburg, Baker (P)	6-0/205	Sr.	Columbus, MS
84 West, Bailey (LS)	6-1/205	Jr.	Hollandale, MS

## 2012 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5, 4-4 (SEC)

Sept. 1	Jackson State	W	56-9
Sept. 8	Auburn	W	28-10
Sept. 15	at Troy	W	30-24
Sept. 22	South Alabama	W	30-10
Oct. 6	at Kentucky	W	27-14
Oct. 13	Tennessee	W	41-31
Oct. 20	Middle Tennessee	W	45-3
Oct. 27	at Alabama	L	7-38
Nov. 3	Texas A&M	L	13-38
Nov. 10	at LSU	L	17-37
Nov. 17	Arkansas	W	45-14
Nov. 24	at Ole Miss	L	24-41
Jan. 1	vs. Northwestern #	L	20-34

#Gator Bowl



NICKOE WHITLEY

## 2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Tyler Russell	394	231	2,897	24	10
Dak Prescott	29	18	194	4	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
LaDarius Perkins	205	1,024	5.0	8
Josh Robinson	55	335	6.1	1
Nick Griffin	32	223	7.0	1
Derrick Milton	34	165	4.9	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Chad Bumphis	58	922	15.9	12
Chris Smith	47	564	12.0	2
Arceto Clark	36	487	13.5	1
Marcus Green	19	215	11.3	6
LaDarius Perkins	19	160	8.4	2

KICKING: Devon Bell, 14-21 FGs, 43-44 XPs, 85 points

TACKLES: Cam Lawrence, 120;

Benardrick McKinney, 102

SACKS: Preston Smith, 4.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Dariusz Slay, 5

Returning Players in Bold

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	29.5 ppg	9	60
Rushing	144.2 ypg	10	82
Passing	237.8 ypg	7	58
Total	381.9 ypg	7	79

Defense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	23.3 ppg	8	34
Rushing	165.6 ypg	11	67
Passing	221.8 ypg	7	45
Total	387.4 ypg	8	52

TO Margin	Per Game	SEC	National
+16	+1.23	1	5

## SCOUTING THE BULLDOGS

### OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP MISSISSIPPI STATE

"They've got a new play-caller on defense. They lost Chris Wilson to Georgia, and Geoff Collins is taking over that duty. He's a good coach. I'm kind of thinking they are going to be pretty good, or at least a lot better. ... On defense, they just aren't as athletic as the top teams. Our defensive big guys were bigger than some of their offensive big guys. They can get pounded up front. Linebackers are average athletically. In the secondary, they are always pretty good. That's how they can get you. They have some athleticism and speed there. ... Offensively, it's going to be a little bit of the same. I think schematically they are always going to put up some points. It all depends on whether they can put up a defense that can stop people. They can play against those spread teams that throw it around a lot because they can cover, but in physical matchups, it's just tough for them. It's not effort, they just don't have the guns. ... The quarterback, Tyler Russell, I think most people like him — he can be a little erratic but has some natural ability. We'll see if he can take that next step. He didn't play very well against some of the better teams in the league. But he's a good player. ... They had the Johnthan Banks kid who was pretty solid at corner, but otherwise no one really scares you on the field."



talent in the secondary, and they're being coached by Townsend, a former NFL standout. Nickoe Whitley, a senior free safety, is easily the most experienced defensive back. But junior strong safety Jay Hughes will be the one making sure everyone and everything is in order. He's taken on a vocal role in hopes of alleviating the communication issues that plagued the secondary late last season. "If I'm verbal and I'm talking, it's contagious, and it helps those guys focus a little bit more," Hughes says.

**SPECIALISTS** Baker Swedenburg may not have the biggest leg and won't put up the biggest numbers, but he can hang with any punter in the SEC when it comes to consistency. The senior averaged 41.1 yards per kick last season, and the Bulldogs led the league in punt coverage. MSU allowed a total of six punt return yards (0.46 per game) in 2012. Handling kicking duties again is Devon Bell, who as a freshman made 14-of-21 field goals, including 4-of-7 from 40 yards or longer. If he can find a little more consistency, Bell could be one of the best in the SEC. The return game has options aplenty, with Lewis likely taking over on punt returns. The Bulldogs used Bumphis and Banks on punt returns last year, but the speed of Lewis makes him a potential game-breaker. Perkins and Robert Johnson are two leading candidates on kick returns.

## OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

**NEW GUY** Deshea Townsend spent 13 years as an NFL cornerback, 12 of them with the Pittsburgh Steelers, a team that knows a little something about defensive back-field play. He knew before he retired that coaching was in his future. The Steelers told him he had a job with their organization when he was finished playing, but Townsend wound up with the Arizona Cardinals, helping with cornerbacks and nickel backs for the 2011-12 seasons. Being a native of Batesville, Miss., Townsend already has in-state ties, which along with his two Super Bowl rings ought to help him on the recruiting trail.

**CARR RETURNS** After showing some promise as a freshman in 2010, receiver Michael Carr left the team during the next season, citing unspecified "personal reasons." Now he's back, having gone through offseason workouts and spring practice with the Bulldogs. He's started at the bottom of the depth chart, but there is no questioning the raw ability that earned Carr the status of fifth-best prospect, according to Rivals, in Mississippi as a senior at West Point.

**BIG PAIR** Quay Evans and Nick James both played on the defensive line as freshmen last year, and they'll be hard to keep off the field this season. The defensive tackles are also hard to miss. Evans stands at 6'3", 310 pounds, while James checks in at 6'5", 345. Neither is expected to start this season, but both were highly rated coming out of high school, and MSU's coaches believe they have high ceilings. The challenge for both, especially James, will be to give a consistent effort without becoming too fatigued.

**MR. UTILITY** Redshirt freshman Brandon Holloway has speed to spare, and MSU will look for ways to get the ball in his hands. The 5'8", 165-pounder came in as a receiver but hasn't shown the best hands. In the spring, he spent some time at running back, and that could be a good fit for him in certain situations. He might also work on kick returns. "I feel I'm very versatile, and I can help in different ways," he says.

**TOUGH FINISH** Mississippi State won its first seven games and climbed as high as No. 12 in the nation. The Bulldogs won only one more game the rest of the season, at home against Arkansas. Four of the five losses came to teams that ended the season ranked in the final AP top 20, including two in the top five (Alabama and Texas A&M). The other loss was against rival Ole Miss. All five of the losses came by at least 14 points.

**TACKLING ISSUE** Mississippi State allowed 165.6 rushing yards per game in 2012, which ranked 11th in the SEC and is the most allowed during Dan Mullen's four-year tenure. One reason for that was poor tackling, an issue that reared its head time and again. It's something the Bulldogs worked on hard in the spring and hope they've resolved.



LB **BENARDRICK  
McKINNEY**



# 2013 SIGNEES

A good recruiting class will address both long-term and short-term needs. Two short-term needs for Mississippi State are cornerback and wide receiver, and its 2013 signing class took care of both positions. At least, that's the hope.

Justin Cox is a cornerback from East Mississippi Community College, and he's in line to take over one of the Bulldogs' two vacancies at that position. Johnthan Banks' shoes are big ones to fill, but Cox has a nose for the ball and plenty of speed to keep up with SEC receivers.

As for receiver, Jeremy Chappelle comes in from Tyler (Texas) Junior College to help a position that lost four seniors, including all three starters, from last year's squad. At 6'2" and 212 pounds, Chappelle brings a little size to a group that in the past has lacked that quality.

## BREAKDOWN BY POSITION

Wide Receivers	6
Athletes	3
Defensive Backs	3
Offensive Linemen	3
Quarterbacks	2
Defensive Linemen	1
Linebackers	1
Tight Ends	1

## BY STATE

Mississippi	8
Alabama	4
Georgia	2
Louisiana	2
Texas	2
Florida	1
Tennessee	1

He worked mainly with the second-string in the spring, but Chappelle is expected to be a big part of the offense.

"Recruiting a juco transfer, they want you to come in and immediately make plays," Chappelle says.

He's one of six receivers in this signing class, so MSU has taken care of the long term here, too. And the group, on the whole, brings good size to the table. The biggest are 6'5" DeRunnya Wilson and 6'4" B.J. Hammond. But the best of the receivers might be Fred Ross, a 6'2" freshman who was named a *Parade* All-American after making 86 catches for 1,594 yards and 21 touchdowns as a senior.

Ross wasn't the only marquee signee. Defensive end Chris Jones was a consensus 5-star and the jewel of the class, although he remains a raw prospect. Ashton Shumpert is listed as an athlete but likely will end up at tailback, and the 6'2", 215-pounder has a bright future if he finishes runs in the SEC the way he did in high school.

This is arguably fifth-year coach Dan Mullen's best class, but this being the SEC, several teams had higher-ranked classes. As usual, MSU will have to get the most out of what it has.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ...

### DE • CHRIS JONES • HOUSTON, MS

Few recruitments have been more dizzying than that of Chris Jones. A raw but very gifted defensive end from Houston (Miss.) High School, Jones leaped onto the national radar his senior year and fielded loads of interest before finally signing with Mississippi State.

Exactly who Jones would choose remained a mystery right up until the moment he announced on National Signing Day. Jones first committed to Mississippi State in the summer of 2012, but after a strong senior year and an impressive showing at the Under Armour All-America Game, many others offers flooded in. Recruiting site 247Sports tabbed him the No. 2 recruit in the country behind Robert Nkemdiche, who signed with rival Ole Miss. The Rebels appeared to be a frontrunner for Jones — who reportedly made several visits to Oxford leading up to Signing Day — but in the end he signed with Mississippi State.

With all the drama behind him, Jones can now focus on turning his raw ability into what MSU coaches envision: An elite SEC defensive end. But how long will that take? He's got a lot of technique to work on, plus the defensive end rotation will be tough to crack. Don't be shocked if this 5-star recruit redshirts.

**WR JEREMY CHAPPELLE** 6-2, 212, TYLER, TX  
Transfer from Tyler (Texas) Junior College. Rated a 4-star recruit by ESPN, 3-star recruit by Scout, 247Sports and Rivals.

**WR SHELBY CHRISTY** 6-3, 190, GEISMAR, LA  
Rated a 3-star recruit by ESPN, Scout, 247Sports and Rivals. A consensus top-100 wide receiver in the country.

**OL JAMAAL CLAYBORN** 6-4, 315, JACKSON, MS  
The leading offensive line prospect among Mississippi's private school ranks. Ranked in the top-25 prospects in the Jackson (Miss.) *Clarion Ledger* Top 40 post-season list.

**DB TOLANDO CLEVELAND** 6-0, 170, POWDER SPRINGS, GA  
Rated a 3-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals and 247Sports. Named to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Super 75 prospects list.

**DB KIVON COMAN** 6-1, 195, SHEFFIELD, AL  
Tabbed as the top post-grad safety in the country by 247Sports while being the 29th rated prep player, regardless of position, in the country. Spent past season at Hargrave (Va.) Military Academy.

**DB JUSTIN COX** 6-3, 190, WEST POINT, MS  
Signed with Mississippi State out of high school but spent two seasons at East Mississippi Community College. Rated a 4-star recruit by ESPN, Scout and 247Sports.

**OL KENT FLOWERS** 6-5, 300, HOLLANDALE, MS  
Top-rated offensive line prospect in the state of Mississippi and the No. 5 prospect overall. Rated among the top-40 prospects in the state of Mississippi by the *Clarion-Ledger*.

**WR DONALD GRAY** 5-11, 180, MEMPHIS, TN  
Rated the No. 10 prospect in the state of Tennessee by ESPN. A top-100 national wide receiver prospect by Scout.

**WR B.J. HAMMOND** 6-4, 215, GADSDEN, AL  
Rated the No. 13 prospect in the state of Alabama regardless of position by ESPN. Also named a top-50 wide receiver nationally according to ESPN.

**LB DEZMOND HARRIS** 6-4, 220, MCCALLA, AL  
Tabbed as the No. 38 prospect in the state of Alabama by ESPN. Named the No. 97 outside linebacker in the country by Scout.

**DL CHRIS JONES** 6-5, 250, HOUSTON, MS  
Considered the nation's No. 2 overall prospect by 247Sports. The top-rated player in the state of Mississippi by nearly every publication. No. 1 on the Jackson (Miss.) *Clarion Ledger's* Top 10 Most Wanted list. Rated the No. 2 defensive end in the country by 247Sports and Scout.

**ATH GABE MYLES** 6-0, 180, STARKVILLE, MS  
Named the No. 42 cornerback in the country by 247Sports while earning the distinction of being the No. 7 player in the state regardless of position.

**WR FRED ROSS** 6-2, 185, TYLER, TX  
Named first-team *Parade* All-American. Finished his senior campaign with 86 catches for 1,594 yards and 21 touchdowns.

**TE ARTIMUS SAMUEL** 6-2, 227, COLUMBUS, GA  
No. 51-rated prep player in the country by 247Sports, while earning a No. 29 ranking in the state of Virginia regardless of position. Third-ranked tight end in the country.

**QB CORD SANDBERG** 6-3, 215, BRADENTON, FL  
Rated a 4-star recruit by ESPN, Scout and Rivals. Member of the ESPN 300, and considered the No. 9 dual-threat quarterback in the country and the No. 45 player, regardless of position, in the state of Florida.

**ATH ASHTON SHUMPERT** 6-2, 215, FULTON, MS  
Named the 2012 Mississippi Gatorade Player of the Year. Rated a 4-star prospect by ESPN, Scout and 247Sports.

**OL JAKE THOMAS** 6-5, 300, COLUMBUS, MS  
Rated a 4-star prospect by Scout and 247Sports. Named the state's No. 7 prospect in the 10 Most Wanted by the *Clarion Ledger*.

**ATH BRANDON WELLS** 6-2, 180, BOGUE CHITTO, MS  
National top-100 safety by Scout. Rated the No. 8 overall player in the state of Mississippi.

**QB DAMIAN WILLIAMS** 6-1, 215, METAIRIE, LA  
17th-ranked prospect in Louisiana regardless of position in the *Times-Picayune* Nifty Fifty postseason ratings.

**WR DE'RUNNYA WILSON** 6-5, 215, BIRMINGHAM, AL  
The state's 16th-ranked overall prospect and the No. 81 national wide receiver by Scout.



# Ole Miss REBELS

NATIONAL FORECAST: 33 // SEC WEST PREDICTION: 4

**H**ugh Freeze's sudden, unexpected success at Ole Miss has had a significant by-product — heightened expectations among his fan base. Freeze inherited a depth-depleted team that had lost 14 straight SEC games and used a junior college quarterback to go 3–5 in the league, win a bowl game and finish on the plus side of .500.

It was only 7–6, but so little was expected. One of the seven wins was a dominating victory against rival Mississippi State, and three of the six losses were against Vanderbilt, Texas A&M and LSU by an average margin of 3.3 points. Those teams won a combined 30 games.

It's not hard to see what might have been for the Rebels. Add a consensus top-10 recruiting class to the equation, and it's also not hard to see why fans have visions of grandeur.

Freeze continues to talk about the journey to success. He wants no microwave turnaround, but it's quite possible that greater achievement could come quicker than even the most optimistic Ole Miss fan could have envisioned when Freeze was hired in December 2011.

**QUARTERBACKS** Bo Wallace was the Week 1 starter last fall after transferring to Ole Miss from East Mississippi Community College. It wasn't always the smoothest ride, but Wallace's first season in Oxford was a success. He threw for 2,994 yards and 22 touchdowns and added 390 yards and eight touchdowns on the ground, proving to be an ideal fit for Freeze's up-tempo spread attack. Wallace was a big reason the Ole Miss offense improved from 11th in the SEC in scoring offense in 2011 (16.1 ppg) to sixth in '12 (31.5 ppg). His shining moment came in the regular-season finale, when he threw for 294 yards and five touchdowns in Ole Miss' convincing 41–24 win over rival Mississippi State. Wallace, however, wasn't always the best decision-maker. He threw 17 interceptions, tied for most in the nation. To be fair, he played for much of the season with a bad shoulder, an injury sustained on a hit against Tulane in Week 4. He had offseason surgery and missed spring drills but should be good to go in August. Wallace's absence gave plenty of reps to senior Barry Brunetti, the clear No. 2, and sophomore Maikhaill Miller. Brunetti, who began his career at West Virginia, is a solid runner and athlete and will have a role in the offense. Last year, he had 60 carries for 277 yards and three touchdowns. Two 4-star signees will join the roster in August, Ryan Buchanan from Jackson, Miss., and Devante Kincade, from Dallas. Neither is expected to challenge for the job right away.

**RUNNING BACKS** Jeff Scott, now a senior, is back after rushing for 846 yards and six touchdowns a year ago. He's also a threat in the passing game but not a threat to run over anyone. Freeze maintains that he can do what he wants in short yardage without a true power back. "I've never had one," he says. The versatile Randall Mackey, at one time the Rebels' starting quarterback, will be missed, but there's plenty of young talent behind Scott. Sophomores Jaylen Walton and I'Tavius Mathers played well in the bowl game when Scott was injured. And they may not be the best young backs on the roster. Freshman Mark Dodson, an early enrollee from Memphis, was impressive in the spring when most of his peers were thinking about the high school prom. "He finds holes quickly, and he gets north and south," says sophomore defensive back Mike Hilton. "He's very shifty. He's going to be a good one for us." There had been talk of moving Brunetti to the sort of hybrid position held last season by Mackey, who also made starts at wide receiver. "I don't know that will end up being the case," Freeze says. "We may just line him up at quarterback like we did last year and do whatever we want with him from there."

**RECEIVERS** All three regulars are back, and Donte Moncrief is clearly the star. He was sensational down the stretch last season, catching a combined 13 passes for 334 yards and five touchdowns in the final two regular-season games. Moncrief is 6'3" and physical, and he has good hands in traffic. Slot

## 2013 SCHEDULE

### AUGUST

29 at Vanderbilt

### SEPTEMBER

7 SE Missouri State

14 at Texas

28 at Alabama

### OCTOBER

5 at Auburn

12 Texas A&M

19 LSU

26 Idaho

### NOVEMBER

9 Arkansas

16 Troy

23 Missouri

28 at Mississippi State



CHARLES SAWYER

## THE VERDICT

### 2013 PROJECTION: 7-5, 4-4 SEC

The Rebels were one of the most-improved teams in the nation last season, and with a top-10 recruiting class on the way, the future looks bright for Hugh Freeze's program. To make the jump from seven wins to the top 25, the Rebels will need quarterback Bo Wallace to make a quick recovery from offseason shoulder surgery. The offensive line returns four starters, and wide receiver Donte Moncrief is one of the league's top playmakers. The defense should get an immediate boost from end Robert Nkemdiche, the nation's top recruit. The schedule is difficult early but eases up down the stretch. The Rebels will be back in a bowl game. Postseason: Music City Bowl vs. Georgia Tech

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Paul Levy



QB BO  
**WALLACE**





receiver was a problem last season until Ja-Mes Logan, now a fifth-year senior, assumed the role in November. He and Vince Sanders were playing at a high level at season's end. Moncrief, Logan and Sanders accounted for 148 catches and 15 of the 16 touchdowns caught by wide receivers. Freeze desperately wanted to improve depth through recruiting, and he added quality and quantity. Freshman Laquon Treadwell, the nation's No. 1 wide receiver prospect, will challenge for playing time immediately. Ole Miss will be looking for a new starting tight end, a position occupied by seniors in 2012.

**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** Four starters return, and four freshmen will be in the mix for playing time, one of them the nation's top offensive line prospect, Laremy Tunsil. Tackles Emmanuel McCray and Pierce Burton, both rising seniors, helped the

## DEPTH CHART

### OFFENSE (8)

WR 12	Donte Moncrief (Jr.)	88	Cody Core (So.)
WR 85	Ja-Mes Logan (Sr.)	28	Korvic Neat (Sr.)
WR 10	Vince Sanders (Jr.)		Laquon Treadwell (Fr.)
LT 70	Emmanuel McCray (Sr.)		Laremy Tunsil (Fr.)
LG 72	Aaron Morris (Jr.)	68	Justin Bell (So.)
C 56	Evan Swindall (Sr.)	54	Austin Douglas (Jr.)
RG 77	Patrick Junen (Sr.)	74	Jared Duke (Sr.)
RT 71	Pierce Burton (Sr.)	78	Robert Conyers (Fr.)
TE 84	Jack Nuismer (Sr.)		A.J. Jackson (Fr.)
QB 14	Bo Wallace (Jr.)	11	Barry Brunetti (Sr.)
RB 3	Jeff Scott (Sr.)	7	Mark Dodson (Fr.)

### DEFENSE (7)

DE 10	C.J. Johnson (Jr.)	11	Channing Ward (So.)
DT 56	Woodrow Hamilton (So.)	45	Lavon Hooks (Jr.)
DT 95	Bryon Bennett (Jr.)	94	Issac Gross (So.)
DE 55	Cameron Whigham (Sr.)		Robert Nkemdiche (Fr.)
MLB 52	Mike Marry (Sr.)	9	D.T. Shackelford (Sr.)
OLB 4	Denzel Nkemdiche (So.)	14	Serderius Bryant (Jr.)
CB 21	Senquez Golson (Jr.)	23	Anthony Standifer (So.)
CB 3	Charles Sawyer (Sr.)	5	Nick Brassell (Jr.)
HUS 28	Mike Hilton (So.)		Antonio Conner (Fr.)
SS 7	Trae Elston (So.)	2	Quintavious Burdette (So.)
FS 25	Cody Prewitt (Jr.)	8	Chief Brown (So.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K 96	Andrew Ritter (Sr.)	KR 6	Jaylen Walton (So.)
P 97	Tyler Campbell (Sr.)	PR 28	Korvic Neat (Sr.)



99

Ole Miss jumped 99 spots nationally in sacks recorded, improving from 110th in 2011 (1.08 per game) to 11th in '12 (2.92 per game).

Rebels develop into a successful edge-oriented rushing team a year ago. Ole Miss was fifth in the SEC and 49th in the nation with 173.9 rushing yards per game but didn't have the physicality to create the necessary space in short-yardage situations often enough. That was a very costly shortcoming in losses to Texas A&M and Vanderbilt. If Tunsil earns playing time, McCray or Burton could move inside to guard. "That's something we'll have to look at. My job as a line coach is to get the best five on the field," offensive line coach Matt Luke says. The only vacant job was filled in the spring by veteran reserve Patrick Junen. Redshirt freshman Robert Conyers, sophomore Justin Bell and senior Jared Duke are candidates to join a rotation that Luke would like to see expand to seven or eight players. His starters were forced to play too many snaps a year ago.

**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** Starting end C.J. Johnson sustained a broken leg early in spring drills but is expected to be fully healed in time for August practice. Johnson had 6.5 sacks last year, but Cameron Whigham, the other starting end, had only 1.5 sacks. Freeze would like to see more pressure off the edge, and that's where freshman Robert Nkemdiche, the nation's No. 1 recruit, should make an immediate impact. Sophomore Channing Ward was a celebrated signee in 2012 who coaches hoped would make a big leap in the spring, but his improvement was only marginal. Uriah Grant and Gilbert Pena are two physical interior players gone from last year's team, opening the door for early playing time for junior college transfer Lavon Hooks. He was a quick study in spring drills. Also at tackle, sophomore Woodrow Hamilton made strides and should make an impact.

**LINEBACKERS** There are only two linebackers in the Rebels' 4-2-5 scheme. Denzel Nkemdiche, the older brother of Robert, quickly became a fan favorite with a magnetic personality and knack for making big plays. He led the team in tackles with 82, tackles for a loss with 13 and forced fumbles with four. He also broke up five passes and picked off three. His passion tends to make up for an undersized frame (5'11", 203). Senior Mike Marry is a big hitter, albeit a step slower than Nkemdiche. The wild card is D.T. Shackelford, a former rising star who tore up his knee in the spring of 2011. Two years and two surgeries have passed since. In the spring, Shackelford said he had "conquered the

## TEAM INFORMATION

### HEAD COACH

Hugh Freeze

### RECORD AT SCHOOL

7-6 (1 year)

### CAREER RECORD

37-13 (4 years)

### CO-OFFENSIVE COORDINATORS

Matt Luke, Dan Werner

### CO-DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS

Jason Jones, Dave Wommack

### LOCATION

Oxford, MS

### STADIUM

Vaughn-Hemingway Stadium  
(60,580)

## KEY REBELS

**Donte Moncrief, WR** He's a physical receiver who catches the ball well in traffic. Five of 10 touchdown catches came in the last two regular-season games.

**Bo Wallace, QB** A question mark when he arrived as a junior college transfer in 2012, Wallace threw for almost 3,000 yards and was voted Mississippi's top college player.

**Jeff Scott, RB** Diminutive (5'7", 170) back rushed for 846 yards and six TDs and was also active in the passing game catching balls out of the backfield.

**C.J. Johnson, DE** Led team in sacks with 6.5; recovering this offseason from a broken leg sustained early in spring drills.

**Denzel Nkemdiche, LB** His younger brother might be more well-known, but Nkemdiche proved he belonged as a redshirt freshman, earning second-team All-SEC honors.

## KEY LOSSES

**Randall Mackey, ATH** Versatile jack-of-all-trades had touchdowns rushing, receiving and passing last year.

**Jamal Mosley, TE** Underutilized but athletic tight end had 15 catches, three for touchdowns. One of three senior tight ends Ole Miss needs to replace.

**A.J. Hawkins, OL** Served as the right guard on an offensive line that played a big role in the Rebels' offensive renaissance in 2012.

**Bryson Rose, K** Extremely accurate from close range, hitting 11-of-13 from inside 40 yards.

**Gilbert Pena, DT** Older player with unique story, Pena hit his stride late in season. Big run-stopper finished with 6.5 tackles for a loss.

## RISING STAR

Defensive tackle **Woodrow Hamilton** was limited to eight games last season as a redshirt freshman due to injuries. The 6'3", 292-pound native of Raleigh, Miss., was impressive in the spring and will have an opportunity to earn a starting spot in the fall.



OLE  
MISS

## 2013 OLE MISS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
11 Brunetti, Barry	6-0/212	Sr.	Memphis, TN
9 Miller, Maikhal	6-2/240	So.	Fulton, MS
17 Purnell, Khalid	5-10/214	Sr.	Philadelphia, PA
13 Ratliff, Robert	6-2/217	Sr.	Fort Worth, TX
14 Wallace, Bo	6-4/204	Jr.	Pulaski, TN

RUNNING BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
48 Bigham, Justin	6-1/232	Sr.	West Helena, AR
41 Busch, Billy	5-11/235	Jr.	St. Louis, MO
7 Dodson, Mark	5-10/193	Fr.	Memphis, TN
5 Mathers, I'Tavius	5-11/196	So.	Murfreesboro, TN
4 Parker, Nicholas	6-0/225	Jr.	Batesville, MS
26 Potepe, Jimmy	5-8/204	So.	Monrovia, Liberia
25 Ragsdale, Darryan	5-10/183	So.	Pelahatchie, MS
44 Scott, Charlie	5-11/200	So.	Jackson, MS
3 Scott, Jeff	5-7/170	Sr.	Miami, FL
6 Walton, Jaylen	5-8/167	So.	Memphis, TN

RECEIVERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
88 Core, Cody	6-3/191	So.	Auburn, AL
86 Gallegos, Jordan	5-9/164	Fr.	New Albany, OH
8 Grant, Terrell	6-3/208	Sr.	Cleveland, MS
7 Holder, Jordan	5-11/177	Sr.	Bay Springs, MS
85 Logan, Ja-Mes	6-3/195	Sr.	Houston, TX
2 Mireles, Quadarias	5-11/185	Jr.	Delray Beach, FL
12 Moncrief, Donte	6-3/216	Jr.	Raleigh, MS
16 Moore, Collins	6-1/196	Jr.	Madison, AL
28 Neat, Korvic	5-9/164	Sr.	Hallandale, FL
80 Pinkston, Josh	6-1/195	Jr.	Forest, MS
88 Ratliff, John	6-0/181	So.	Fort Worth, TX
20 Reed, Jeremy	5-6/150	Jr.	Southaven, MS
10 Sanders, Vince	6-1/190	Jr.	Macon, MS

TIGHT ENDS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
87 Brown, Matt	6-3/226	Fr.	Cordova, TN
82 Dyer, Dylan	6-6/240	Sr.	Flora, MS
15 Morgan, Christian	6-4/255	Fr.	Plano, TX
84 Nuismier, Jack	6-3/237	Sr.	Nashville, TN
47 Youngblood, John	6-3/237	Fr.	Trussville, AL
89 Zettergren, Taz	6-4/225	Fr.	Senatobia, MS

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
73 Bailey, Darone	6-5/316	Jr.	Cleveland, MS
68 Bell, Justin	6-3/335	So.	Jackson, MS
71 Burton, Pierce	6-6/289	Sr.	Sacramento, CA
78 Conyers, Robert	6-3/277	Fr.	Miami, FL
54 Douglas, Austin	6-2/320	Jr.	Batesville, MS
74 Duke, Jared	6-7/354	Sr.	Cleveland, TN
65 Hughes, Chase	6-3/292	Jr.	Springville, AL
50 Hutson, Ethan	6-4/306	So.	Destrehan, LA
77 Junen, Patrick	6-3/314	Sr.	Huntsville, AL
70 McCray, Emmanuel	6-5/316	Fr.	Jackson, MS
72 Morris, Aaron	6-5/330	Jr.	Jackson, MS
64 Mt. Joy, Tyler	6-1/261	So.	The Woodlands, TX
75 Stevens, Park	6-6/351	So.	Columbus, MS
61 Still, Ben	6-2/280	So.	Memphis, TN
56 Swindall, Evan	6-4/295	Sr.	LaFayette, GA
60 Wilson, Derrick	6-2/326	Sr.	Greenville, MS

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
95 Bennett, Bryon	6-2/294	Jr.	Madison, MS
53 Gray, Tyler	6-3/245	Fr.	Pelahatchie, MS
94 Gross, Issac	6-1/254	So.	Batesville, MS
56 Hamilton, Woodrow	6-3/292	So.	Raleigh, MS
45 Hooks, Lavon	6-4/290	Jr.	Atlanta, GA
10 Johnson, C.J.	6-3/233	Jr.	Philadelphia, MS
92 Martin, Carlton	6-2/288	Jr.	Madison, MS
51 Sturgeon, Walker	6-2/254	Jr.	Horn Lake, MS
54 Thompson, Carlos	6-4/243	Jr.	Hollandale, MS
11 Ward, Channing	6-4/256	So.	Aberdeen, MS
55 Whigham, Cameron	6-3/255	Sr.	Snellville, GA
36 Wood, Cameron	6-3/258	Fr.	Birmingham, AL

LINEBACKERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
14 Bryant, Serderius	5-9/223	Jr.	Sanford, FL
24 Lewis, Keith	6-1/235	Jr.	Tampa, FL
52 Marry, Mike	6-3/256	Sr.	Clearwater, FL
26 Martin, Will	6-1/210	Sr.	Madison, MS
4 Nkemdiche, Denzel	5-11/203	So.	Loganville, GA
9 Shackelford, D.T.	6-1/250	Sr.	Decatur, AL
32 Strong, Temario	6-0/240	Fr.	Batesville, MS
46 Walls, Colton	5-11/207	So.	Charlotte, NC

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
16 Alford, Anthony	6-0/210	So.	Petal, MS
29 Bangura, Abdul	5-10/176	So.	Takoma Park, MD
35 Berry, Ontario	5-10/196	Jr.	Mendenhall, MS
5 Brassell, Nick	6-1/180	Jr.	Batesville, MS
8 Brown, Chief	6-1/202	So.	Winona, MS
2 Burdette, Quintavius	5-11/189	So.	Senatobia, MS
12 Coleman, Cliff	5-10/181	Jr.	Lauderdale Lakes, FL
1 Collins, Dehendret	5-10/185	Sr.	Meadville, MS
19 Covington, Louis	5-9/162	Sr.	Baton Rouge, LA
20 Davis, Carlos	5-9/163	So.	Birmingham, AL
7 Elston, Trae	6-0/190	So.	Oxford, AL
21 Golson, Senquez	5-9/188	Jr.	Pascagoula, MS
22 Gracia, Tyriek	6-2/206	Jr.	Hialeah, FL
40 Gregory, Josh	6-2/208	So.	Alpharetta, GA
28 Hilton, Mike	5-8/182	So.	Fayetteville, GA
28 King, LaKedrick	5-8/181	Jr.	Duncanville, TX
13 Mathews, Brishen	6-0/200	Sr.	Monticello, AR
25 Prewitt, Cody	6-2/214	Jr.	Bay Springs, MS
27 Richardson, Josh	5-10/180	Jr.	Moss Point, MS
3 Sawyer, Charles	5-11/181	Sr.	Miami, FL
23 Standifer, Anthony	6-0/182	So.	Crete, IL

SPECIALISTS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
97 Campbell, Tyler (P)	6-2/235	Sr.	Little Rock, AR
94 Conley, Chris (P)	5-8/197	Sr.	Bradenton, FL
59 Denny, Will (LS)	5-11/230	Jr.	Jackson, MS
52 Few, Will (LS)	6-3/245	Fr.	Augusta, GA
26 Fletcher, Andrew (K)	5-9/167	Jr.	Nashville, TN
91 Noble, Nathan (K)	6-4/211	So.	Greenville, MS
19 Pappanastos, Andy (K)	5-11/180	Fr.	Montgomery, AL
96 Ritter, Andrew (K/P)	6-3/220	Sr.	Jackson, MS
19 Watts, Justin (K)	5-11/185	So.	Suwanee, GA

## 2012 RESULTS

RECORD: 7-6, 3-5 (SEC)

Sept. 1	Central Arkansas	W	49-27
Sept. 8	UTEP	W	28-10
Sept. 15	Texas	L	31-66
Sept. 22	at Tulane	W	39-0
Sept. 29	at Alabama	L	14-33
Oct. 6	Texas A&M	L	27-30
Oct. 13	Auburn	W	41-20
Oct. 27	vs. Arkansas %	W	30-27
Nov. 3	at Georgia	L	10-37
Nov. 10	Vanderbilt	L	26-27
Nov. 17	at LSU	L	35-41
Nov. 24	Mississippi State	W	41-24
Jan. 5	vs. Pittsburgh #	W	38-17

%Little Rock #BBVA Compass Bowl



DENZEL NKEMDICHE

## 2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Bo Wallace	368	235	2,994	22	17
Barry Brunetti	36	23	196	1	0

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Jeff Scott	197	846	4.3	6
Bo Wallace	143	390	2.7	8
Randall Mackey	79	325	4.1	4
Barry Brunetti	60	277	4.6	3

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Donte Moncrief	66	979	14.8	10
Ja-Mes Logan	43	490	11.4	1
Vince Sanders	39	504	12.9	4
Randall Mackey	25	346	13.8	1

KICKING: Bryson Rose, 18-28 FGs, 49-49 XPs,

103 points

TACKLES: Denzel Nkemdiche, 82; Cody Prewitt, 80

SACKS: C.J. Johnson, 6.5

INTERCEPTIONS: 3 players tied with 3

Returning Players in Bold

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	31.5 ppg	6	47
Rushing	173.9 ypg	5	49
Passing	249.9 ypg	5	49
Total	423.8 ypg	5	46

Defense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	27.6 ppg	9	60
Rushing	129.3 ypg	6	25
Passing	246.5 ypg	11	80
Total	375.9 ypg	7	46

TO Margin	Per Game	SEC	National
-1	-0.08	9	63

## SCOUTING THE REBELS

### OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP OLE MISS

"They have a lot of tricks up their sleeve. They always get guys open. They put you in tough situations. Within the framework of one play, it can be an inside run, an outside run; it can be a dump pass or a deep ball. They do so many different things. They have a good plan. ... They have to be a little concerned about (quarterback Bo) Wallace's shoulder surgery. James Franklin at Missouri had the same thing, and he wasn't at full strength at the beginning of last season. Their offense requires a lot of coordination with 11 men working together on every play. It will hurt not having Wallace in the spring, and he will miss a significant portion of the summer. I think he is a good kid. He plays with a chip on his shoulder. He wasn't highly recruited, going to Arkansas State and then a junior college. He was playing as well as anyone in the league toward the end of the year. He needs to eliminate his turnovers. ... Jeff Scott is pretty good. They've got some good young players coming in, but Scott will still be productive. He can do a lot of different things. He is versatile and that is what they look for. He is also a good return guy. ... You shouldn't have a freshman offensive lineman come in and play early unless he's a complete freak. The Laremy Tunsil kid, he's a complete freak. He will find a way to get on the field this season."



weight room" and maintained he'd be ready to play this fall. His return to form is far from a sure thing, but he could provide quality depth and veteran leadership.

**DEFENSIVE BACKS** Nick Brassell was a two-way player on a bad Ole Miss team as a freshman in 2011. Grades forced him to leave school and play at a junior college in 2012. If he is eligible, it will be a big lift to the secondary. Freeze has already identified Brassell as an "NFL corner." Senior Charles Sawyer and athletic junior Senquez Golson bring experience to the cornerback position. Trae Elston led the team with six pass break-ups, and Cody Prewitt had two interceptions, two fumble recoveries and two forced fumbles. They are the playmakers among the three starting safeties, a group that also includes Hilton at the "Husky" spot. Freshman Antonio Conner is expected to add depth.

**SPECIALISTS** Placekicker Andrew Ritter and punter Tyler Campbell, who led the nation as a sophomore in 2010 with a 46.4-yard average, both redshirted last year as fourth-year seniors. Ritter served as the kickoff specialist in his first three seasons but has yet to attempt a field goal or extra point. The Rebels struggled at times in kick coverage, and it was costly — they gave up an 89-yard punt return touchdown in a six-point loss at LSU. The signing class could add depth on special teams.

## OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

**NO LOOKING BACK** In 2011, Senquez Golson turned down a contract offer from the Boston Red Sox valued at more than \$1 million in order to play football and baseball at Ole Miss. After one season of college baseball he opted to focus solely on football, where he's shown improvement at cornerback. Golson had three interceptions last season, all coming in the last three games. He says he doesn't look back on his decision to turn down the money. "Nah, never. It's probably the best decision I've made to come here," Golson says.

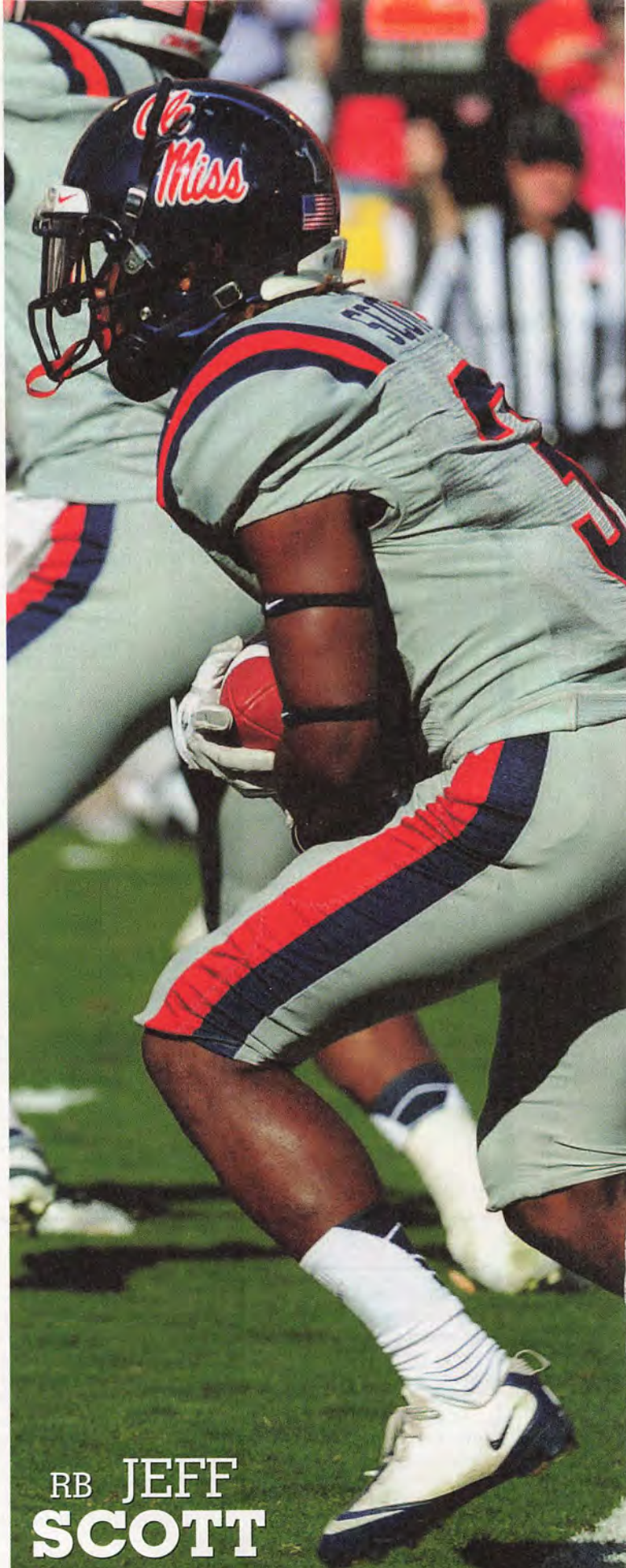
**NO POWER RUNNER** Ole Miss led the SEC in fourth down conversions last year with a 72.2 success rate on 18 attempts. However, there were a couple of notable misses late in losses against Texas A&M and Vanderbilt. Ole Miss coach Hugh Freeze says he doesn't really need a big, bruising type runner. There wasn't one on last year's roster, and there isn't in 2013. The Rebels were fourth in the SEC in third down conversions at 44.3 percent.

**DEPTH CONCERNS** In general terms, depth has improved from the roster Freeze inherited a year ago. It still isn't where he believes it should be or will be. "We're still a couple of recruiting classes away from having the depth you really need," Freeze says. There are quality numbers at running back, but not so much at wide receiver, a fact driven home in the spring when veterans Donte Moncrief, Korvic Neat and Vince Sanders all missed time with injury. Quality offensive line reserves are a work in progress too. As many as four freshmen could play there.

**GROWN-MAN STRENGTH** Defensive end Channing Ward has impressive physical skills, and coaches are hoping for a big jump for the sophomore this season. "He has grown-man strength. When he puts his hands on you, you know it," defensive line coach Chris Kiffin says. Ward, a high school All-American, appeared in 12 games and notched 21 tackles as a freshman, but he missed the crucial one-on-one teaching time that other freshmen received because of late academic clearance.

**SPECIAL TEAMS EXPERIENCE** The presence of a senior placekicker and a surprise walk-on punter allowed Freeze to gamble last year and redshirt two seniors. Now he heads into 2013 with experience at two important positions. Andrew Ritter, who previously in his career handled only kickoffs, will take over field goals and PATs, and Tyler Campbell returns as the punter. Freshman walk-on Carlos Davis, who came in as a running back, emerged as a speedy playmaker on special teams last year. He was moved to defense in the spring but will again play a role on special teams.

**SHACK IS BACK** Linebacker D.T. Shackelford is attempting a comeback after two years away from the game. He led Ole Miss with five sacks as a sophomore but tore up a knee in the spring of 2011. Two surgeries followed, and Shackelford missed two seasons. He had a productive spring, but Freeze and his staff will learn more about what on-field contributions they might get from a very vocal and emotional leader when the season begins.



RB JEFF  
SCOTT



# 2013 SIGNEES

Ole Miss became the talk of National Signing Day as elite-level recruits pledged their allegiance to Ole Miss on national television.

Three signees were ranked No. 1 at their positions — offensive tackle Laremy Tunsil, wide receiver Laquon Treadwell and defensive end Robert Nkemdiche — with Nkemdiche being ranked the top overall prospect in the country.

Many of the newcomers will provide immediate depth. Nkemdiche is expected to help with the pass rush off the edge. The Rebels ranked second in the SEC in sacks last year, but much of that was accomplished with pressure packages. Tunsil could make a move for early playing time up front, and so could Austin Golson, rated the No. 3 offensive tackle in the nation. If both show themselves ready, there could be a shuffle of positions along the line.

Treadwell gives the Rebels another big receiving target. Coach Hugh

Freeze calls much less-heralded wide receiver Derrick Jones the "sleeper" of the class because of his athleticism.

With so much buzz, it was easy to forget some of the mid-year signees, but there could be immediate help there. Quadarius Mireles began to pick things up in the spring, and his speed and quickness make him an attractive option as a slot receiver. Running back Mark Dodson of Memphis — Tennessee's Gatorade Player of the Year in 2012 — went through spring drills as an early enrollee and will likely have a role in what is now a crowded backfield.

The most intriguing name among the transfers is Nick Brassell. A prep All-American, Brassell signed with Ole Miss in 2011. He was primarily a receiver but also played defense and special teams under former coach Houston Nutt. Poor grades forced Brassell to play the 2012 season at East Mississippi Community College. He re-signed in December but must still clear academic hurdles to be eligible in the fall. If he's available, Brassell's primary side of the ball will be defense.

## BREAKDOWN BY POSITION

Defensive Backs	4
Offensive Linemen	4
Running Backs	4
Defensive Linemen	3
Tight Ends	3
Wide Receivers	3
Athletes	2
Linebackers	2
Quarterbacks	2
Kickers	1

## BY STATE

Mississippi	8
Georgia	6
Tennessee	4
Alabama	3
Texas	3
Florida	2
Illinois	1
Louisiana	1

Freeze calls much less-heralded wide receiver Derrick Jones the "sleeper" of the class because of his athleticism.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ...

### S • ANTONIO CONNER • BATESVILLE, MS

For Antonio Conner, saying no to Nick Saban was easier than saying no to his mother. The 5-star safety from Mississippi's famed South Panola High School had an offer to sign with two-time defending national champion Alabama but decided to try to make his mark with his local team, one perceived as an up-and-comer.

"As we went on visits I looked back and looked at my mom to see how happy she was," Conner says. "She was happy at Alabama, and she was happy at Ole Miss. She was a little bit more happy at Ole Miss."

Conner says he seriously began to consider Ole Miss when he talked with other Rebel recruits on the all-star circuit.

"We're hoping that we'll get together and turn things around in Mississippi," he says. "It's right down the road. I feel more comfortable there, and I want to do something in my state."

While the Rebels have more talent and experience than a year ago, depth at several positions remains an issue. One of those is safety, where Conner will have the chance for early playing time. Coach Hugh Freeze projects Conner as a "Husky" in the 4-2-5 scheme of coordinator Dave Wommack. The Ole Miss staff likes Conner's physical play and ability in run support.

**WR QUINCY ADEBOYEJO** 6-3, 180, CEDAR HILL, TX  
Rated a 4-star recruit, the No. 42 wide receiver in the nation and the No. 43 recruit in Texas by Rivals.

**ATH TREY BLEDSOE** 6-2, 190, GRENADA, MS  
The No. 13 recruit in Mississippi, No. 116 athlete in the nation by ESPN.

**OL DARONTE BOULDIN** 6-6, 310, CANTON, MS  
Scout rated him the 49th-best OT in the nation, No. 6 prospect in Mississippi.

**CB NICK BRASSELL** 6-1, 180, BATESVILLE, MS  
A 4-star athlete, No. 13 juco prospect in the nation according to 247Sports.

**RB EUGENE BRAZLEY** 5-10, 180, NEW ORLEANS, LA  
No. 38 running back in the nation and No. 20 prospect from Louisiana by ESPN.

**QB RYAN BUCHANAN** 6-4, 205, JACKSON, MS  
SuperPrep All-American. Listed as a 4-star recruit by ESPN, Scout and Rivals.

**S ANTONIO CONNER** 6-2, 205, BATESVILLE, MS  
Under Armour and SuperPrep All-America selection. Rated a 5-star prospect by Scout and 247Sports.

**RB MARK DODSON** 5-10, 193, MEMPHIS, TN  
Ranked the nation's No. 5 all-purpose back and No. 149 overall prospect by Rivals.

**TE EVAN ENGRAM** 6-3, 210, POWDER SPRINGS, GA  
Rated the No. 22 tight end in the nation by Scout. First-team all-state.

**OL AUSTIN GOLSON** 6-6, 290, PRATTVILLE, AL  
U.S. Army and SuperPrep All-America selection. Rated the nation's No. 8 OT by Rivals.

**DB BOBBY HILL** 6-0, 165, MOULTRIE, GA  
Rated the No. 93 cornerback in the country by Scout.

**DT LAVON HOOKS** 6-4, 290, ATLANTA, GA  
Among the nation's juco prospects, rated No. 1 by 247Sports, No. 11 by Scout and No. 15 by ESPN. No. 1 juco prospect in Mississippi.

**TE A.J. JACKSON** 6-6, 240, HAMPTON, GA  
Rated the nation's 15th-best tight end by Tom Lemming, 16th by 247Sports.

**OL DAVION JOHNSON** 6-4, 315, BYHALIA, MS  
Rated the No. 39 offensive tackle in the country by Scout.

**WR DERRICK JONES** 6-2, 185, EUPORA, MS  
Listed as the ninth-best recruit in Mississippi by Scout and ESPN.

**CB DAVID KAMARA** 5-10, 185, LOGANVILLE, GA  
No. 70 cornerback in the nation by Rivals, No. 85 by ESPN.

**QB DEVANTE KINCADE** 6-1, 185, DALLAS, TX  
A 4-star recruit by ESPN and Scout. Listed as 12th-best dual-threat quarterback in the nation by ESPN, 18th by 247Sports.

**ATH QUADARIAS MIRELES** 5-11, 185, DELRAY BEACH, FL  
Rated a 4-star recruit and the No. 8 juco prospect in the nation by ESPN.

**DT HERBERT MOORE** 6-2, 330, MEMPHIS, TN  
Rated the No. 16 prospect in Tennessee by Rivals, No. 17 by ESPN.

**RB KAILO MOORE** 5-10, 190, ROSEDALE, MS  
Listed as the sixth-best all-purpose back in the nation by 247Sports.

**TE CHRISTIAN MORGAN** 6-4, 255, PLANO, TX  
Rated the No. 11 tight end in the nation by Scout, No. 16 by Rivals.

**DE ROBERT NKEMDICHE** 6-5, 270, LOGANVILLE, GA  
The consensus No. 1 overall recruit and top defensive end in the nation. An Under Armour, USA Today, MaxPreps and SuperPrep All-America selection as a senior.

**K ANDY PAPPANASTOS** 5-11, 180, MONTGOMERY, AL  
Set Alabama career record for field goals with 48, two shy of national record.

**LB MARCUS ROBINSON** 6-4, 210, MEMPHIS, TN  
Rated the No. 26 ILB in the nation by Rivals, No. 36 OLB by Scout.

**LB RAY RAY SMITH** 6-3, 210, FLORENCE, AL  
Rated the 20th-best player in Alabama by Rivals and 24th by ESPN.

**WR LAQUON TREADWELL** 6-3, 198, CRETE, IL  
An Under Armour, USA Today, MaxPreps and SuperPrep All-America selection. Rated a 5-star recruit by Rivals, Scout, 247Sports and MaxPreps and the nation's No. 1 wide receiver by Tom Lemming, Rivals and ESPN.

**OL LAREMY TUNSIL** 6-6, 320, LAKE CITY, FL  
A U.S. Army, USA Today, MaxPreps and SuperPrep All-America selection. No. 1-rated offensive tackle in the nation by all the major recruiting services.

**RB JORDAN WILKINS** 6-1, 210, CORDOVA, TN  
Rated the No. 9 all-purpose back in the nation by 247Sports and the nation's No. 10 big back by Tom Lemming.



# REBS STRIKE GOLD

Ole Miss shocks the college football world with a top-10 recruiting class

by Parrish Alford

**H**ugh Freeze is approachable by nature and has a disarming demeanor. On the surface, it's hard not to like the Ole Miss football coach.

The same can be said, perhaps, for a used car salesman, and fans of opposing SEC schools were quick to cry foul — regardless of the validity of that cry — as Freeze and his staff compiled a consensus top-10 recruiting class in February.

It hadn't been done at Ole Miss before. How could Freeze do it?

The Ole Miss class peaked at No. 5 in the ESPN rankings, but it takes more than a smile and handshake for sustained recruiting success, which is what Freeze must have to lift the Rebels from mediocre to meaningful in the SEC West, the toughest division in college football. In his mind, he has to build relationships, not only with prospects but also throughout his program. If he doesn't, the players he's trying to sign will discern the lack of authenticity.

The 2013 class indicates that Freeze and staff are off to a good start in all of the above.

National websites devoted to recruiting took ample notice of the 2013 class. Scout named D-line coach Chris Kiffin — Monte's son and Lane's younger brother — its Recruiter of the Year, while Kiffin and fellow assistants Wesley McGriff and Maurice Harris were named among the top 50 recruiters in the nation by 247Sports.

When the Rebels were first mentioned with some of the nation's upper-tier talent, the idea of Freeze and his staff closing the deal seemed a little "far-fetched," says Barton Simmons, who covers national recruiting for 247Sports. But there came a tipping point when those who follow the recruiting game began to think differently.

"Once it became clear that Robert Nkemdiche (the top-rated recruit nationally) was headed to Ole Miss, once it became clear that a 5-star receiver in Laquon Treadwell was joining the class, everything started to seem much more likely down that home stretch," Simmons says. "As an industry it got to the point that nothing surprised us about that staff and what they were able to accomplish."

The key? Relationships.

McGriff, who has left since Signing Day to become secondary coach with the New Orleans Saints, had a friendship with an assistant coach at Treadwell's high school, and that gave the Rebs a shot with the No. 1 wide receiver.

Kiffin played a big role in the signing of Nkemdiche, the nation's No. 1 recruit, and also with No. 1 offensive tackle prospect Laremy Tunsil. In addition, Nkemdiche has a brother — All-SEC linebacker Denzel Nkemdiche — already on the Ole Miss roster, while Treadwell has a friend and former high school teammate, defensive back Anthony Standifer, in Oxford. Those are examples of the "natural ins" Freeze references in how the entire 2013 class came together.

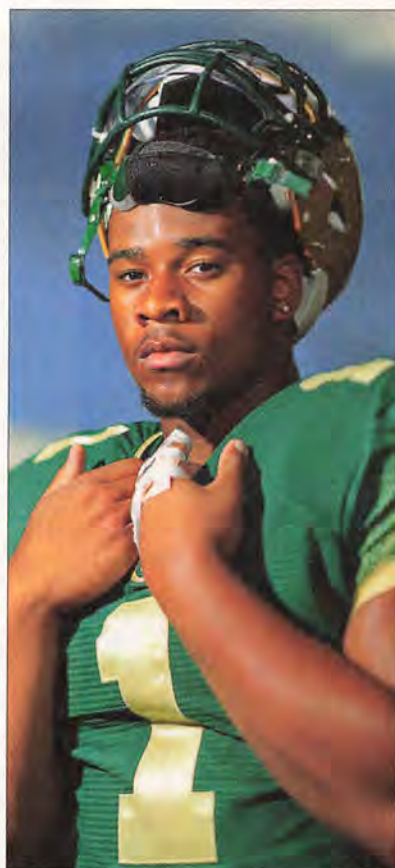
"People who criticize don't understand that we have the brother of the No. 1 recruit in the country who just had an incredible experience at Ole Miss this year," Freeze says.

"A lot of people talk about family, but we live it," says offensive line coach Matt Luke, a former Ole Miss center who was also an assistant on Ed Orgeron's staff. "People see that when they come here. They see us in person. They see that. We build relationships with our guys that are deeper than most. It's not just, play your four years of football and get out of here."

People are attracted to that chemistry, Luke says. In a sport where vicious hits and physical play are applauded, Freeze uses respect for teammate, school and self — and often uses the word "love" — as his main motivating points.

Contact with each recruit from each assistant coach is meticulously planned, as is the Freeze in-home visit — down to what will be discussed and what assistant coaches will be with him.

The classroom discussion is always nearby. Freeze inherited an academic train wreck when he arrived at Ole Miss. Most players — not all — were able to get back on course and become eligible for 2012.



Robert Nkemdiche

**"Once it became clear that Robert Nkemdiche was headed to Ole Miss, once it became clear that a 5-star receiver in Laquon Treadwell was joining the class, everything started to seem much more likely down that home stretch."**

— 247Sports' Barton Simmons

"Academics are non-negotiable in this process," he says.

Freeze's devout Christian faith is visible daily through his motivational phraseology and comments on Twitter. That can serve to strengthen a recruiting relationship, or in some cases have no effect.

"You get a mixture. Just like it is in society, but I'm not a guy that forces this on anyone. I tell you who I am," he says.

The Ole Miss staff could see the momentum building for the class and could predict the reaction from so many who follow the sport of recruiting.

Allegations of cheating began to flood Freeze's Twitter account to the point that he challenged anyone with evidence of wrongdoing to contact the school's compliance of-





Unprecedented recruiting riches (and accompanying whispers of impropriety) have Hugh Freeze and the Rebels energized and eager to storm the fields of the SEC this fall.

fice. Many did, and their claims were investigated. But nothing was found that raised red flags.

There was discussion with Ole Miss athletics director Ross Bjork and many others within the athletics department before Freeze issued his Twitter challenge.

"My whole point is, I know our coaches are doing it right," Freeze says. "Certainly you're going to do something where you have a secondary violation on something that is totally unintentional, but if somebody does have something that I'm unaware of, there's too much at stake for me to sit blindly by. I'd like to know it."

Many of the complaints came from those with ties to Georgia. Mark Richt and his staff had gotten pretty far down the road with Tunsil, and Freeze had no "natural in" with the tackle from Lake City, Fla.

"We had a plan. So we're thrilled that it worked, but surprised is not a good word," Luke says. "It's like when I hit a good golf shot. That's where I was aiming, it just doesn't happen all the time. We had a lot of things fall right. We had some siblings, some teammates, some things to get the ball rolling."

Freeze expects success in spite of the disadvantages that accompany a state with one of

the smallest populations in the country, one that divides its small talent pool with another SEC school (Mississippi State) and a third FBS program (Southern Miss), and must withstand talent raids from more established conference brethren (say, SEC West rivals LSU and Alabama).

Ole Miss was able to do that by landing 4-star prospects Ryan Buchanan and Kailo Moore — a quarterback and running back, respectively — and 5-star safety Tony Conner.

Memphis is a nearby population center that Ole Miss considers "home" recruiting territory. Freeze focuses on advantages like that — and what he says is the ability of Ole Miss to sell itself — as opposed to a lack of numbers inside the state and the year-long battles through recruiting and public relations with SEC rival Mississippi State.

"The same people that (talk about our disadvantages are also) writing that it's in the top five of most beautiful campuses in the nation or that the game-day experience is among the top three in the nation or that it's the safest campus in America," Freeze says.

"And we have a rich tradition in football."

That tradition is also distant. John Vaught's best years were five decades ago, and Ole Miss hasn't won an SEC championship since 1963.

Freeze contends that recruiting isn't easy at Ole Miss but that it's difficult everywhere "with the exception of three or four schools in the conference" and that the past should not dictate the future.

He was a part of three Orgeron teams that never had a winning season, and his 7-6 debut was hailed as remarkable because of the depths to which the program had quickly fallen after Houston Nutt led Ole Miss to Cotton Bowls in his first two seasons.

As with any coach and staff, wins and losses will impact length of tenure. Whether through relationship building or another method, Freeze has to win at recruiting, and winning there can be defined in different ways.

Freeze says he doesn't need to sign a top-10 class every year, that he can rebuild Ole Miss football with "high 3-stars and 4-stars." Simmons agrees and uses Auburn as an example of the great misconception of recruiting.

"They've recruited consistently in the top 10 and top five, and that's not translated to wins on the field," he says.

"There's every reason to believe that if (Ole Miss') evaluations and developments are right, that the program is headed in the right direction."



# TEXAS A&M AGGIES

NATIONAL FORECAST: 9 // SEC WEST PREDICTION: 2

**W**alking through the players' facilities at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington prior to throwing out the ceremonial first pitch of a Rangers-Angels game in April, Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel continually received the same advice from virtually everyone he encountered, including Nolan Ryan and Ron Washington of the Rangers and the Angels' Mike Trout: Don't leave it short. Manziel heeded the advice, nearly throwing it over the head and left shoulder of Rangers first baseman and fellow SEC athlete Mitch Moreland.

"I wasn't going to throw it in the dirt," Manziel said with a laugh. "After (all the advice I'd received), my whole focus was, 'Aim really high.'"

That was his strategy for the day. It's also Manziel's sole focus for the 2013 season. After leading A&M to an historic, 11-win season in the Aggies' inaugural year in the SEC — a season in which A&M shocked Alabama in Tuscaloosa and finished in the top five nationally for the first time since 1956 — Manziel is aiming even higher.

He realizes the Aggies must replace numerous key starters from a year ago and manage unprecedented expectations as one of the SEC West's new frontrunners. But Manziel and the Aggies refuse to set their sights short of anything less than a national title. That may be a tall task with an extremely inexperienced defense, but the first freshman ever to win the Heisman Trophy is accustomed to overcoming long odds.

**QUARTERBACKS** Anyone who follows college football recalls the magnificence of Manziel in 2012, as the Aggies became the first SEC team to surpass 7,000 yards in a season and Manziel became the first SEC player ever to account for 5,000 yards individually. The question is: Can he be as effective with every opponent geared up to stop him? With a firm grasp of the offense, added strength and even more poise in the pocket, the quick, elusive and ultra-confident Manziel believes he can be even better. And he's not the least bit concerned about what opposing defensive coordinators have been preparing for him. "Coaches are going to scheme just like they always do," says Manziel, who produced a Cotton Bowl-record 516 total yards in his last game. "Some might have one game (circled) on their calendar, but I doubt it. I heard the same talk (about an opponent having time to scheme) prior to the Cotton Bowl when (Oklahoma) had a month to prepare. That didn't really work out for them."

**RUNNING BACKS** In one of the more remarkable statistics from last season, Manziel led the SEC in rushing, averaging 108.5 yards per game. But he could be hard-pressed to lead his own team this year, as the Aggies are stocked with the best collection of running backs since the early 1990s when Greg Hill, Rodney Thomas and Leeland McElroy shared time in the same backfield. A&M welcomes back starting tailback Ben Malena, a powerful, punishing runner who averaged 5.9 yards per carry last season. Speedster Trey Williams also returns, and two tremendously talented transfers — Brandon Williams from Oklahoma and Tra Carson from Oregon — give the Aggies plenty of explosive options out of the backfield. "These guys are all competitive and very talented," offensive co-coordinator Clarence McKinney says of his running backs. "We just hope we have enough balls for them. The good is that they all bring something different to the table. So we'll find things for those guys to do."

**RECEIVERS** A&M will undoubtedly miss Ryan Swope, who departed as the school's career leader in receptions and receiving yards. But Swope's records won't last long if 6'5" sophomore Mike Evans continues to build on his sensational debut. The towering and physically imposing Evans, who finished last season with 82 catches for 1,105 yards, is a matchup nightmare for most defensive backs. Juniors Malcome Kennedy and LeKendrick Williams and senior Derel Walker all had impressive moments last season and could play key roles in 2013. But they will be pressed for playing time by an extremely impressive array of newcomers like Ricky Seals-Jones, Ja'Quay Williams, Jeremy Tabuyo, Kyron Parker, Sebastian Larue and tight end Cameron Clear.

## 2013 SCHEDULE

### AUGUST

31 Rice

### SEPTEMBER

7 Sam Houston State

14 Alabama

21 SMU

28 at Arkansas

### OCTOBER

12 at Ole Miss

19 Auburn

26 Vanderbilt

### NOVEMBER

2 UTEP

9 Mississippi State

23 at LSU

30 at Missouri



JAKE MATTHEWS

## THE VERDICT

### 2013 PROJECTION: 10-2, 6-2 SEC

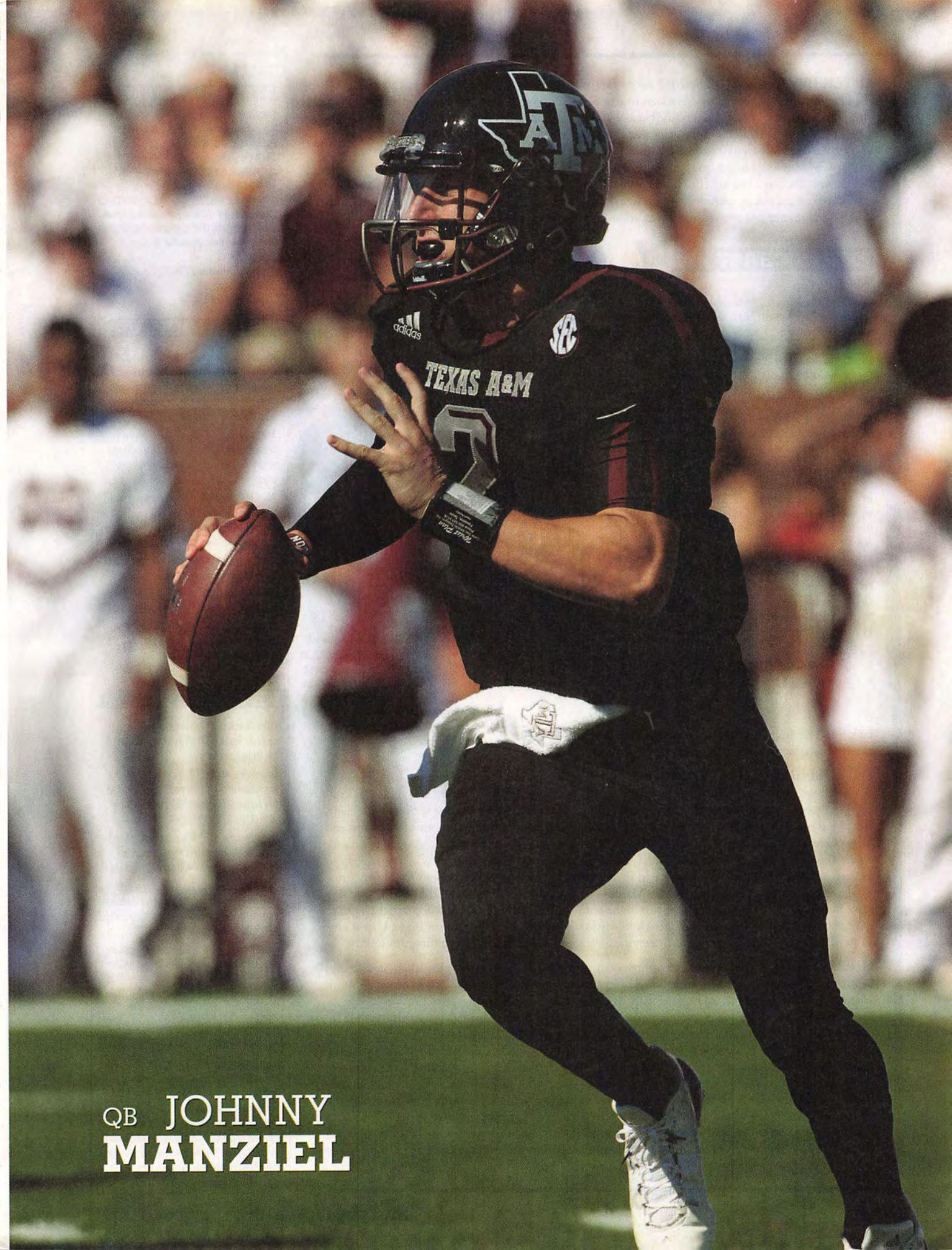
After an impressive SEC debut, what can Kevin Sumlin and Johnny Manziel do for an encore? Contending for a national championship is within reach, especially since Alabama must visit College Station. Replacing offensive linemen Luke Joeckel and Patrick Lewis and receiver Ryan Swope will be the top priority on offense. The Aggies are also breaking in a new play-caller, with Jake Spavital taking over for Kliff Kingsbury. The defense is the Aggies' biggest concern. This unit ranked ninth in the SEC in yards allowed in 2012 and must replace end Damontre Moore and linebackers Sean Porter and Jonathan Stewart. Postseason: Capital One Bowl vs. Wisconsin

## 5-YEAR WIN TREND



Tim Clark/Athlon Sports





QB JOHNNY  
**MANZIEL**



**OFFENSIVE LINEMEN** The 2013 A&M offensive line would have been absolutely remarkable if Luke Joeckel, perhaps the best lineman in school history, had chosen to return for his senior season. But even without Joeckel, this line has a chance to be among the best in the SEC. While Joeckel left early, the great news for the Aggies was that Jake Matthews, who played right tackle last year, chose to return for his senior season. Matthews moves to left tackle and will likely be a first-round pick in 2014. Matthews' younger brother, Mike, replaces Patrick Lewis at center, while junior Cedric Ogbuehi, who also has a bright NFL future, moves from guard to right tackle. Jarvis Harrison and Germain Ifedi round out an extremely impressive group of starters. "We're going to miss Luke, not only as a football player but around the locker room, but being able to move Jake from right to the left

## DEPTH CHART

### OFFENSE (6)

WR	13	Mike Evans (So.)	84	Malcome Kennedy (Jr.)
WR	10	LeKendrick Williams (Jr.)	23	Sabian Holmes (So.)
WR	11	Dereel Walker (Sr.)	4	Ja'Quay Williams (Fr.)
LT	75	Jake Matthews (Sr.)	73	Jeremiah Stuckey (So.)
LG	51	Jarvis Harrison (Jr.)	77	Shep Klinke (Sr.)
C	56	Mike Matthews (So.)	68	Ben Compton (Jr.)
RG	74	Germain Ifedi (Fr.)	78	Garrett Gramling (Jr.)
RT	70	Cedric Ogbuehi (Jr.)	79	Joseph Cheek (So.)
TE	87	Cameron Clear (Jr.)	81	Nehemiah Hicks (Sr.)
QB	2	Johnny Manziel (So.)	16	Matt Joeckel (Jr.)
TB	1	Ben Malena (Sr.)	28	Brandon Williams (So.)

### DEFENSE (5)

DE	72	Gavin Stansbury (Jr.)	41	Brandon Alexander (So.)
DT	83	Alonzo Williams (So.)		Isaiah Golden (Fr.)
NG	42	Kirby Ennis (Sr.)	71	Kimo Tipoti (Fr.)
DE	95	Julien Obioha (So.)	35	Tyrell Taylor (Jr.)
OLB	45	Steven Jenkins (Sr.)	52	Brett Wade (Fr.)
MLB	36	Donnie Baggs (Jr.)	40	Shaun Ward (Jr.)
OLB	55	Tommy Sanders (Jr.)	9	Nate Askew (Sr.)
CB	1	De'Vante Harris (So.)	7	Tramain Jacobs (Sr.)
CB	29	Deshazor Everett (Jr.)	37	Alex Sezer (Fr.)
SS	31	Howard Matthews (Jr.)	4	Toney Hurd (Sr.)
FS	14	Floyd Raven (Jr.)	25	Clay Honeycutt (Jr.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	24	Taylor Bertoletto (So.)	KR	20	Trey Williams (So.)
P	38	Drew Kaser (So.)	PR	1	De'Vante Harris (So.)



**1** Not only did Texas A&M lead the SEC in total offense (558.5 ypg), but the Aggies also ranked No. 1 in the league in both rushing (242.1 ypg) and passing (316.5).

tackle and having Cedric move to where he's a better fit at right tackle (from guard) really helps us out," Manziel says.

**DEFENSIVE LINEMEN** The defensive front was one of the most pleasant surprises of the season, as Damontre Moore emerged as a star and Spencer Nealy became one of the team's emotional leaders. With both of those players departing and a number of injuries affecting the spring depth chart, A&M has some major concerns heading into the fall. But if nose guard Kirby Ennis (knee) and end Julien Obioha (back) can return at full strength — as anticipated — the front could again be an area where the Aggies exceed expectations. End Gavin Stansbury and tackle Alonzo Williams have been impressive at times in reserve roles early in their careers, but they could be pressed for playing time by newcomers Isaiah Golden and Justin Manning. At 6'2", 320, Golden could be a run-stopping force in the middle right away. But the key to the entire unit could be Obioha, who started 12 games last season as a true freshman before a back injury forced him to miss the Cotton Bowl. If he is able to stay healthy, it could go a long way toward easing some of the concerns regarding this unit.

**LINEBACKERS** This is another area of concern, as the Aggies must replace Jonathan Stewart and Sean Porter. Fortunately, A&M returns one of its defensive anchors from last year in Steven Jenkins, who finished third on the team in 2012 with 79 tackles from his weak-side linebacker position. Jenkins, who has a knack for big plays and a nose for the football, missed spring contact drills while recovering from offseason shoulder surgery to repair a torn labrum. In addition to his rehabilitation efforts, he spent time mentoring junior college transfer Tommy Sanders, a talented outside linebacker prospect who played at Butler (Kan.) Community College. Jenkins has also taken on a more vocal role in encouraging hard-hitting Donnie Baggs and Shaun Ward, who are projected to be the middle linebackers in the Aggies 4-3 alignment. "Donnie and Tommy and some of the other guys did well in the spring, and I am doing what I can to help them," Jenkins says. "I know people have a lot of questions about the front seven. Stewart and Porter were great leaders, and they helped me become more accountable. I am not usually the most vocal guy, but I need to communicate and be an example to the younger guys."

## TEAM INFORMATION

### HEAD COACH

Kevin Sumlin

### RECORD AT SCHOOL

11-2 (1 year)

### CAREER RECORD

46-19 (5 years)

### CO-OFFENSIVE COORDINATORS

Clarence McKinney, Jake Spavital

### CO-DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS

Mark Snyder, Marcel Yates

### LOCATION

College Station, TX

### STADIUM

Kyle Field (82,423)

## KEY AGGIES

**Mike Evans, WR** Third in the SEC as a redshirt freshman in receptions per game with 6.3, including some remarkably clutch catches.

**Johnny Manziel, QB** Already the most impactful player in A&M history in terms of the overall positive publicity he has brought to Aggie football.

**Jake Matthews, LT** Passed up opportunity to be selected in the first round of the 2013 NFL Draft to return for senior season and play with his younger brother, Mike.

**Steven Jenkins, LB** Big-play specialist is the most experienced returner among the defensive front seven.

**Deshazor Everett, CB** Produced 56 tackles, broke up seven passes and intercepted two, including one to help secure the victory over No. 1 Alabama.

## KEY LOSSES

**Luke Joeckel, LT** Unanimous All-American and Texas A&M's first-ever winner of the Outland Trophy.

**Damontre Moore, DE** First-team All-American and All-SEC performer who led the Aggies in tackles (85), tackles for a loss (21) and sacks (12.5).

**Ryan Swope, WR** Big-play, hard-nosed wide receiver who left A&M as career leader in receptions and receiving yards.

**Jonathan Stewart, MLB** Tough inside linebacker who produced 81 tackles (second on the team) and emerged as one of the leaders of the A&M defense.

**Sean Porter, OLB** Produced 13 sacks in his last two seasons and made a number of big plays in 2012, including a key interception early in the Alabama win.

## RIISING STAR

Keep a close eye on running back **Brandon Williams**, the former prized, 5-star recruit who transferred to Texas A&M from Oklahoma. He possesses 4.47 speed in the 40-yard dash and features great hands as a receiver and should shine in Kevin Sumlin's spread attack. The best news: He still has three years of eligibility remaining.



# 2013 TEXAS A&M ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
6 Davis, Matt	6-2/206	Fr.	Houston, TX
17 Fierro, Ace	6-1/196	Jr.	Smithville, TX
16 Joeckel, Matt	6-4/234	Jr.	Arlington, TX
2 Manziel, Johnny	6-1/200	So.	Kerrville, TX
14 McQueen, Conner	5-10/175	Fr.	Klein, TX

RUNNING BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
21 Carson, Tra	6-0/227	So.	Texarkana, TX
27 Dolezal, Brice	5-9/170	So.	Austin, TX
1 Malena, Ben	5-8/195	Sr.	Cedar Hill, TX
34 Townsend, Blaine	6-0/230	So.	Wichita Falls, TX
28 Williams, Brandon	6-0/192	So.	Brookshire, TX
20 Williams, Trey	5-8/185	So.	Spring, TX

RECEIVERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
80 Buscha, Ryan	5-8/175	Jr.	Round Rock, TX
13 Evans, Mike	6-5/225	So.	Galveston, TX
35 Fierro, Reece	6-1/190	Jr.	Smithville, TX
23 Holmes, Sabian	5-11/175	So.	Southlake, TX
84 Kennedy, Malcome	6-0/200	Jr.	Cayuga, TX
15 Labhart, Travis	5-9/182	Sr.	Dallas, TX
88 Lamascus, Gaston	5-6/182	Sr.	Navasota, TX
82 Niederhofer, Boone	6-0/180	Fr.	San Antonio, TX
18 Pope, Edward	6-4/170	Fr.	Carthage, TX
48 Shephard, Jordan	6-2/190	So.	Dickinson, TX
11 Walker, Derel	6-2/185	Sr.	Hillsboro, TX
4 Williams, Ja'Quay	6-3/210	Fr.	Tyrone, GA
10 Williams, LeKendrick	5-8/170	Jr.	Sharpstown, TX
41 Young, Stephen	5-11/185	Sr.	Burnet, TX

TIGHT ENDS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
87 Clear, Cameron	6-6/270	Jr.	Memphis, TN
81 Hicks, Nehemiah	6-4/250	Sr.	Hutto, TX
47 Inglett, Daniel	6-2/210	So.	San Antonio, TX
30 McCarty, Matthew	6-5/210	Fr.	San Antonio, TX
33 Urbanowski, Brettain	6-4/233	Jr.	Houston, TX

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
65 Arechiga, John-Albert	6-2/300	So.	Houston, TX
79 Cheek, Joseph	6-7/300	So.	Seguin, TX
68 Compton, Ben	6-4/307	Jr.	Friendswood, TX
78 Gramling, Garrett	6-6/309	Jr.	Denton, TX
60 Gutekunst, Nathan	6-6/308	So.	Humble, TX
51 Harrison, Jarvis	6-4/320	Jr.	Navasota, TX
74 Ifedi, Germain	6-5/320	Fr.	Houston, TX
77 Klinke, Shep	6-7/305	Sr.	Katy, TX
63 Lindblade, Ryan	6-7/305	Fr.	Richmond, TX
75 Matthews, Jake	6-5/305	Sr.	Missouri City, TX
56 Matthews, Mike	6-3/280	So.	Missouri City, TX
70 Ogbuehi, Cedric	6-5/300	Jr.	Allen, TX
50 Ortega, Justin	5-10/235	Jr.	San Antonio, TX
53 Smith, Caden	6-3/259	So.	Roscoe, TX
73 Stuckey, Jeremiah	6-4/285	So.	Pacifica, CA

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
41 Alexander, Brandon	6-6/255	So.	Brenham, TX
42 Ennis, Kirby	6-4/300	Sr.	Huntsville, TX

59 Flores, Isaac	6-3/300	Fr.	Santa Rosa, TX
67 Godwin, Tyler	6-3/280	Fr.	Clear Springs, TX
90 Manukainiu, Polo	6-5/270	Fr.	Eules, TX
95 Obioha, Julien	6-4/255	So.	New Orleans, LA
92 Points, Jordan	6-3/260	Fr.	Rockwall, TX
89 Robinson, Ivan	6-3/270	Jr.	Longville, LA
72 Stansbury, Gavin	6-4/270	Jr.	Franklin, LA
35 Taylor, Tyrell	6-4/230	Jr.	Houston, TX
71 Tipoti, Kimo	6-3/320	Fr.	Hurst, TX
83 Williams, Alonzo	6-4/280	So.	Long Beach, CA

LINEBACKERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
9 Askeew, Nate	6-4/225	Sr.	San Antonio, TX
36 Baggs, Donnie	6-1/230	Jr.	League City, TX
43 Bass, Justin	6-2/217	Jr.	Plano, TX
51 Chevish, Reggie	6-1/250	Fr.	Houston, TX
46 Hiltiard, A.J.	6-2/210	So.	Klein, TX
45 Jenkins, Steven	6-2/220	Sr.	Pensacola, FL
58 Johnson, Cody	6-1/220	So.	Anahuac, TX
49 Martinez, Taylor	6-0/215	Fr.	Fort Bend, TX
57 Munroe, Alvin	6-1/195	Fr.	Baytown, TX
33 Richardson, Michael	6-2/230	So.	DeSoto, TX
55 Sanders, Tommy	6-2/215	Jr.	Cordele, GA
50 Taylor, Tyrone	6-3/240	Fr.	Houston, TX
52 Wade, Brett	6-1/225	Fr.	Kennedale, TX
40 Ward, Shaun	6-2/244	Jr.	Ft. Lauderdale, FL

DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
26 Burns, Devonta	6-0/201	So.	Arlington, TX
29 Everett, Deshazor	6-0/185	Jr.	DeRidder, LA
30 Franklin, Jontel	6-2/200	Sr.	Milwaukee, WI
19 Fritsche, Matt	6-3/171	So.	Bryan, TX
1 Harris, De'Vante	5-10/175	So.	Mesquite, TX
25 Honeycutt, Clay	6-2/200	Jr.	Dickinson, TX
4 Hurd, Toney	5-9/180	Sr.	Missouri City, TX
7 Jacobs, Trammie	6-1/190	Sr.	Covington, LA
15 Marshall, Kenneth	6-0/191	Fr.	South Houston, TX
31 Matthews, Howard	6-2/200	Jr.	League City, TX
44 Moeller, Sam	5-11/186	So.	San Antonio, TX
14 Raven, Floyd	6-2/190	Jr.	Kenner, LA
32 Riney, Rylan	5-11/175	So.	Aledo, TX
37 Sezer Jr., Alex	5-9/180	Fr.	Orange, TX
39 Taylor, Marvin	5-11/187	Fr.	Houston, TX
32 Willard, Josh	5-9/175	Fr.	San Antonio, TX

SPECIALISTS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
24 Bertolet, Taylor (K)	5-9/174	So.	Reading, PA
54 Freeman, Alex (LS)	6-1/228	Fr.	Austin, TX
19 Harmon, Evan (P/K)	6-3/185	Fr.	Dallas, TX
40 Hiddink, Seth (K)	6-4/200	Fr.	Wylie, TX
38 Kaser, Drew (P)	6-3/220	So.	Strongsville, OH
49 Lambo, Josh (K)	6-0/215	So.	Middleton, WI
36 Plowman, Davis (K)	5-10/185	Fr.	Roswell, GA
29 Serres, Kyle (K)	6-4/190	Jr.	Spring, TX
31 Wicks, Seth (K)	5-10/165	Fr.	Keller, TX

## 2012 RESULTS

RECORD: 11-2, 6-2 (SEC)

Sept. 8	Florida	L	17-20
Sept. 15	at SMU	W	48-3
Sept. 22	South Carolina State	W	70-14
Sept. 29	Arkansas	W	58-10
Oct. 6	at Ole Miss	W	30-27
Oct. 13	vs. Louisiana Tech %	W	59-57
Oct. 20	LSU	L	19-24
Oct. 27	at Auburn	W	63-21
Nov. 3	at Mississippi State	W	38-13
Nov. 10	at Alabama	W	29-24
Nov. 17	Sam Houston State	W	47-28
Nov. 24	Missouri	W	59-29
Jan. 4	vs. Oklahoma #	W	41-13

%Shreveport #Cotton Bowl



JULIEN OBIOHA

## 2012 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Johnny Manziel	434	295	3,706	26	9
Jameill Showers	44	27	319	2	1

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Johnny Manziel	201	1,410	7.0	21
Ben Malena	138	808	5.9	8
Christine Michael	88	417	4.7	12
Trey Williams	65	376	5.8	5

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Mike Evans	82	1,105	13.5	5
Ryan Swope	72	913	12.7	8
Thomas Johnson	30	339	11.3	1
Uzoma Nwachukwu	26	485	18.7	7
Malcome Kennedy	26	285	11.0	2

**KICKING:** Taylor Bertolet, 13-22 FGs, 67-74 XPs, 106 points

**TACKLES:** Damontre Moore, 85; Jonathan Stewart, 81

**SACKS:** Damontre Moore, 12.5

**INTERCEPTIONS:** Deshazor Everett, 2; Steven Terrell, 2

Returning Players in Bold

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	44.5 ppg	1	4
Rushing	242.1 ypg	1	11
Passing	316.5 ypg	1	14
Total	558.5 ypg	1	3

Defense	Per Game	SEC	National
Scoring	21.8 ppg	7	26
Rushing	139.5 ypg	7	35
Passing	250.7 ypg	12	86
Total	390.2 ypg	9	57

TO Margin	Per Game	SEC	National
-5	-0.38	11	86

## SCOUTING THE AGGIES

### OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP TEXAS A&M

"They lost one of their key offensive linemen, one of the first guys drafted this year, Luke Joeckel, and that's obviously going to be a loss for them. I think offensively, they are still going to be really, really good. I actually think they are going to be the team to beat in the West, just because of who they have coming back overall, what they do schematically, how fast their offense goes. ... Mark Snyder is a good defensive coordinator. You look at it, the only games they lost were Florida and LSU, and one of them was their first game of the year. Still, they almost beat Florida. I don't really know why LSU was so hard for them. It was maybe LSU being able to neutralize A&M up front with its physical, quick defensive linemen. ... You're really limited what you can do against A&M's offensive line. ... They only run about eight plays or so. It's just so fast. If you don't have a system or terminology that allows you to play that tempo, there's no chance. A&M has already snapped the ball. ... Where Johnny Manziel is really good — and how he got us — he gets you in same way Cam Newton did. Once you've got everyone covered, if you don't account for the quarterback, he's going to run for a first down. ... On defense, they lost a couple of guys. It will be interesting to see what they can do there. ... They are so big and quick up front, but they are also lean. They can really move on that offensive line."



**DEFENSIVE BACKS** A&M finished 12th out of 14 SEC schools last year in passing defense. But the Aggies should be dramatically improved this season, and the secondary should be the strength of the defense. The trio of Howard Matthews, Toney Hurd and Floyd Raven form a solid combination at safety, while De'Vante Harris and Deshazor Everett are outstanding man-to-man cover cornerbacks. Harris needs to improve his open-field tackling, but he can provide blanket coverage on receivers. Raven also is excellent in man-to-man situations, and he's physical enough to play safety. "He's rangy and fast," A&M defensive backs coach Marcel Yates says of Raven. "He's very physical. He's smart, and you know with him he can cover. He can do it all."

**SPECIALISTS** For the Aggies to be serious national title contenders, they'll need a better year from placekicker Taylor Bertolet. As a freshman in 2012, Bertolet displayed a strong leg, generating 65 touchbacks out of 103 total kickoffs. But he was not dependable on longer field goal attempts (2-of-9 from 30 to 49 yards). He missed two key field goals in a five-point loss to LSU, and he was only 13-of-22 for the season. He also missed seven extra points. Drew Kaser appears to be a solid replacement for Ryan Epperson at punter, and the Aggies have some big-play potential with return specialists such as Trey Williams and Brandon Williams on kickoffs and Harris and Sabian Holmes on punts.

## OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

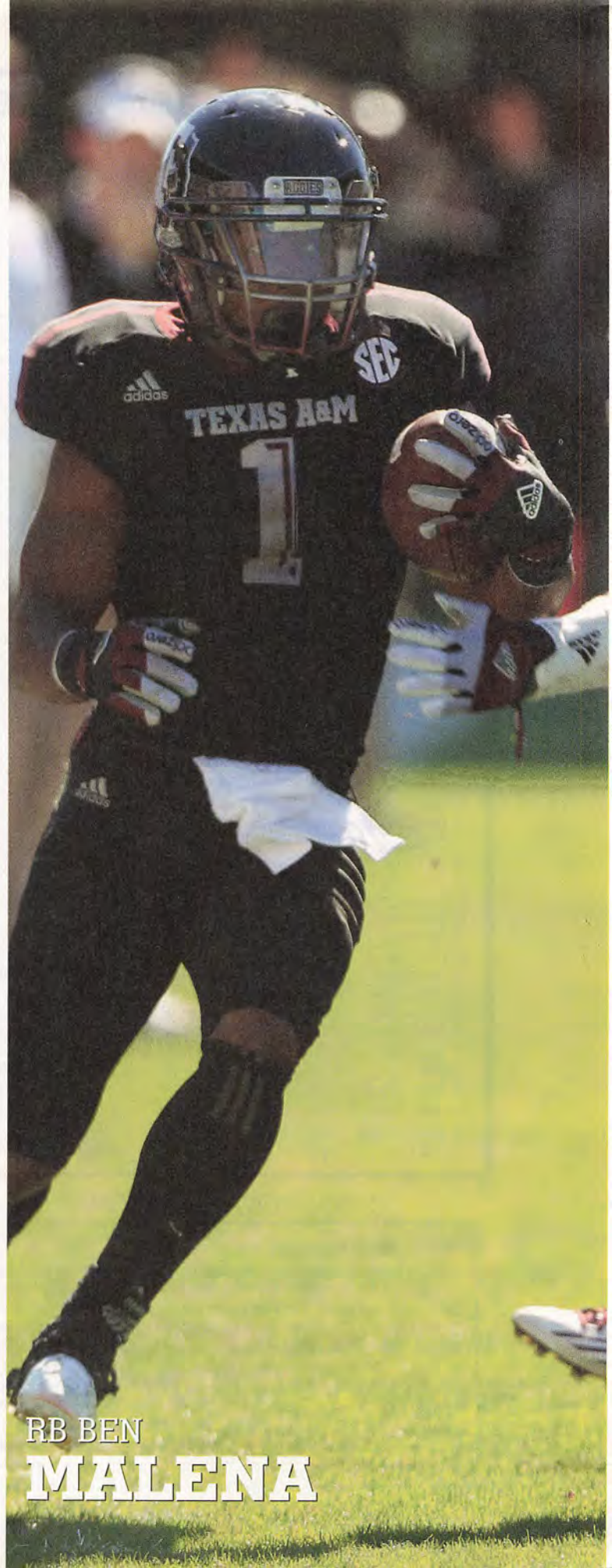
**DOMINATING NUMBERS** Entering last year, one of the primary questions regarding the Aggies involved whether Kevin Sumlin's spread offense would work in the SEC. That's no longer being asked. In a remarkable first year in the SEC, A&M led the league in scoring offense, rushing offense, passing offense, total offense, first downs and third down conversions.

**THE HOUSE THAT JOHNNY BUILT** Yankee Stadium was long known as "The House That Ruth Built." A completely renovated Kyle Field may one day become known as "Johnny Football's House." In the spring, the 12th Man Foundation, the fundraising organization of Texas A&M athletics, unveiled plans to completely renovate Kyle Field, bringing capacity to approximately 102,000, increasing the total number of suites to roughly 110 and enclosing the south end of the stadium, while dramatically renovating the east and west sides. The renovations will make Kyle Field — known already for its atmosphere and crowd noise — far more intimidating for opponents. The estimated \$450 million project will also be the most expensive and expensive renovation in the history of college athletics. The 12th Man Foundation had been working on expansion plans for roughly three years, but A&M's success in the first year of the SEC, along with Manziel's Heisman Trophy, expedited the fundraising efforts.

**UNLIKELY TRANSITION** As a wide receiver during his first three collegiate seasons, Nate Askew had a difficult time finding a role that would keep him on the field. He caught just six passes as a sophomore and three last year. But Askew may have found a home this spring at linebacker, where position coach Mark Hagen says he expects the 6'4", 225-pounder to play a significant role on the outside this fall.

**COACH COOL** Sumlin's "cool factor" was already off the charts after leading the Aggies to 11 wins in 2012. But it increased during the offseason, as Sumlin received an honorary World Heavyweight Championship belt from the WWE during a February stop in College Station, even hamming it up with wrestlers Alberto Del Rio and "The Big Show." And during a Friday night spring practice that was open to the public and attended by 30 to 35 prospective recruits, Sumlin arranged for "DJ Double R" to spin tunes from inside the trailer of an 18-wheeler that was parked inside Kyle Field.

**MANZIEL THE DRAGONSLAYER** Shortly after the April 13 Maroon & White Spring Game, Manziel made reference in a press conference to a Disney/Paramount Pictures movie, "Dragonslayer," that was released more than 10 years before he was born in December 1992. The movie was before his time, but the media received his message: "The big conversation we had before Alabama was to be a dragon slayer," Manziel said of his conversations with San Diego-based quarterbacks coach, George Whitfield. "Now, there's a big dragon out there for us with all of the people who are doubting A&M, the people that are doubting me (and saying) last year was a fluke. So that's a chip on my shoulder and a dragon I need to slay this year."



RB BEN  
**MALENA**



# 2013 SIGNEES

Seizing on the momentum of a spectacular first season in the SEC, the Aggies signed a consensus top-10 recruiting class that was balanced with star power and need-filling, must-have signees.

Coach Kevin Sumlin didn't spend much time gloating about the class, however, as he pointed out that the Aggies were not even in the upper half of the SEC West, according to various recruiting rankings.

"We are still playing catch-up to everyone in the SEC," Sumlin said. "From a recruiting standpoint, we are in the top 10 in the country, but fourth or fifth in our division (behind Alabama, Ole Miss and LSU). I'm pleased with this class, particularly with the athleticism and size in the defensive line. But we're going to need more of these classes to get to where we need to be."

A&M recruited exceptionally well in its home state and also signed

## BREAKDOWN BY POSITION

Defensive Backs	7
Defensive Linemen	6
Wide Receivers	6
Linebackers	5
Offensive Linemen	3
Quarterbacks	2
Running Backs	1
Tight Ends	1

## BY STATE

Texas	22
Louisiana	3
California	2
Georgia	2
Hawaii	1
Tennessee	1

three prospects from Louisiana and six overall from the SEC footprint, including the former No. 1 receiver in Georgia (Ja'Quay Williams, a former Auburn signee), the nation's best junior college outside linebacker prospect (Georgian Tommy Sanders) and a former starter at tight end for Tennessee (Memphis-born Cameron Clear).

But the Aggies also landed plenty of standouts from the Lone Star State. A&M signed its dual-threat quarterback of the future in Southlake Carroll's Kenny Hill, the Class 5A Player of the Year, and also landed the state's most highly regarded offensive prospect in 6'5" receiver Ricky Seals-Jones, who

selected A&M over LSU, Texas, USC and Oregon.

The Aggies' most pressing needs were on the defensive side of the ball, and A&M addressed its lack of line depth by signing four elite defensive linemen from Texas. The defensive line class is led by tackles Isaiah Golden and Justin Manning, two of the biggest defensive names in the Lone Star State in the 2013 class.

Golden has the size (6'2", 320) to be a force right away, but Manning represents the first time since at least 1999 (Ty Warren) that the Aggies landed the No. 1-ranked defender in Texas.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ...

DE • **DAESHON HALL** • LANCASTER, TX

One of the biggest Signing Day coups in recent history for Texas A&M occurred when Daeshon Hall chose to sign with the Aggies instead of fulfilling his long-time commitment to Washington. Hall, a tremendously athletic and lean end who reminds many observers of Damontre Moore, was influenced late in the recruiting process by several players who were already committed to the Aggies.

"Daeshon had committed to Washington, and it came down to the wire in him making his decision," A&M head coach Kevin Sumlin said. "Some of our guys (who were already committed to A&M) hit it off at these all-star games. Daeshon was one of the guys who came to visit in January, and he was a great late addition to our class."

The 6'6", 235-pound Hall was a first-team all-state pick and the Class 4A Region II Defensive Player of the Year after recording 23 sacks as a senior. Hall, rated the sixth-best defensive end in the country by one recruiting service, is originally from Seattle.

He's only been playing football for two years, as basketball was his primary sport as he grew up in the Pacific Northwest. He obviously needs to add weight to his long, rangy frame, and he may redshirt early in his time at A&M. But he possesses as much upside as any defender in A&M's 2013 class.

OL **JOAS AGUILAR** 6-4, 270, N. RICHLAND HILLS, TX  
4-star prospect by ESPN, member of the ESPN 300.

DE **JAY ARNOLD** 6-4, 265, HEATH, TX  
4-star prospect by ESPN, rated 3-star prospect by Rivals, 247Sports.

LB **REGGIE CHEVIS** 6-1, 255, HOUSTON, TX  
Rated a 4-star prospect by ESPN, 3-star prospect by Rivals, 247Sports.

LB **DARIAN CLAIBORNE** 6-0, 225, PORT ALLEN, LA  
3-star prospect chose A&M over Nebraska, Ole Miss, Mississippi State.

TE **CAMERON CLEAR** 6-6, 270, MEMPHIS, TN  
Transfer from Arizona Western College. Began his career at Tennessee.

S **VICTOR DAVIS** 6-0, 175, ROSENBERG, TX  
4-star prospect by ESPN. Second Team All-Greater Houston.

CB **NOEL ELLIS** 5-10, 175, NEW ORLEANS, LA  
4-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals, 247Sports. Member of the ESPN 300, Rivals 250.

CB **TAVARES GARNER** 6-0, 175, MISSOURI CITY, TX  
4-star prospect by Rivals, 247Sports. Offense-Defense All-American.

DT **ISAIAH GOLDEN** 6-2, 320, CARTHAGE, TX  
Member of ESPN 300, Rivals 250. 4-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals, 247Sports.

WR **LAQUVIONTE GONZALEZ** 5-10, 165, CEDAR HILL, TX  
4-star prospect and member of ESPN 150 and Rivals 250.

DE **DAESHON HALL** 6-6, 235, LANCASTER, TX  
4-star prospect was first-team All-State, Class 4A Defensive Player of the Year.

QB **KENNY HILL** 6-1, 215, SOUTHLAKE, TX  
Texas Gatorade Player of the Year. *Parade* All-American.

WR **SEBASTIAN LARUE** 5-11, 180, LOS ANGELES, CA  
4-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals, 247Sports. Under Armour All-American.

DT **JUSTIN MANNING** 6-1, 270, DALLAS, TX  
U.S. Army All-American. Member of ESPN 150 and Rivals 100.

LB **JORDAN MASTROGIOVANNI** 6-2, 230, DALLAS, TX  
4-star prospect and member of the ESPN 300.

S **KAMERON MILES** 6-1, 215, MESQUITE, TX  
U.S. Army All-American. Member of ESPN 300 and Rivals 250.

WR **KYRION PARKER** 6-2, 190, MISSOURI CITY, TX  
4-star prospect by Rivals and 247Sports. Member of the Rivals 250.

DE **JORDAN POINTS** 6-3, 255, HEATH, TX  
Rated a 3-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals and 247Sports.

LB **TOMMY SANDERS** 6-2, 210, CORDELE, GA  
Transfer from Butler (Kan.) Community College. 4-star prospect by ESPN.

WR **RICKY SEALS-JONES** 6-5, 225, SEALY, TX  
Rated a 5-star prospect by 247Sports. Member of the ESPN 150 and Rivals 100. U.S. Army All-American.

CB **ALEX SEZER** 5-9, 180, ORANGE, TX  
3-star prospect by Rivals and 247Sports.

QB **KOHL STEWART** 6-2, 200, TOMBALL, TX  
4-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals and 247Sports. Member of the ESPN 150. Under Armour All-American.

OL **JEREMIAH STUCKEY** 6-6, 280, SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
Transfer from City College of San Francisco. 3-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals, 247Sports.

WR **JEREMY TABUYO** 5-11, 180, HONOLULU, HI  
Semper Fidelis All-American. 3-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals, 247Sports.

LB **BRETT WADE** 6-1, 225, KENNEDALE, TX  
4-star prospect by ESPN, 247Sports. Chose A&M over Kansas State, Clemson, Arizona.

DT **HARDRECK WALKER** 6-2, 290, HOUSTON, TX  
Offense-Defense All-American. 4-star prospect by Rivals, 247Sports.

S **SHAAN WASHINGTON** 6-2, 210, ALEXANDRIA, LA  
3-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals, 247Sports.

RB **JAMES WHITE** 6-0, 210, PEARLAND, TX  
4-star prospect by 247Sports. Rushed for 2,185 yards and 28 TDs as a senior.

S **JONATHAN WIGGINS** 6-3, 210, HOUSTON, TX  
3-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals, 247Sports.

WR **JA'QUAY WILLIAMS** 6-3, 210, TYRONE, GA  
4-star prospect by ESPN, Rivals, 247Sports. Member of Rivals 100.

OL **ISHMAEL WILSON** 6-4, 280, LANCASTER, TX  
Offense-Defense All-American. 4-star prospect by Rivals, 247Sports.



# AMERICAN PREVIEW

## PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1</b> LOUISVILLE<br><b>CARDINALS</b><br>11-1, 7-1 AMERICAN   | <b>6</b> CONNECTICUT<br><b>HUSKIES</b><br>5-7, 3-5 AMERICAN |
| <b>2</b> CINCINNATI<br><b>BEARCATS</b><br>9-3, 6-2 AMERICAN     | <b>7</b> HOUSTON<br><b>COUGARS</b><br>5-7, 3-5 AMERICAN     |
| <b>3</b> RUTGERS<br><b>SCARLET KNIGHTS</b><br>7-5, 5-3 AMERICAN | <b>8</b> SMU<br><b>MUSTANGS</b><br>4-8, 3-5 AMERICAN        |
| <b>4</b> UCF<br><b>KNIGHTS</b><br>7-5, 5-3 AMERICAN             | <b>9</b> MEMPHIS<br><b>TIGERS</b><br>4-8, 2-6 AMERICAN      |
| <b>5</b> SOUTH FLORIDA<br><b>BULLS</b><br>7-5, 5-3 AMERICAN     | <b>10</b> TEMPLE<br><b>OWLS</b><br>4-8, 1-7 AMERICAN        |

## PRESEASON ALL-AAC TEAM

### FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	TEDDY BRIDGEWATER	6-3	218	Jr.	Louisville
RB	LYLE McCOMBS	5-8	169	Jr.	Connecticut
RB	CHARLES SIMS	6-0	215	Sr.	Houston
WR	BRANDON COLEMAN	6-6	220	Jr.	Rutgers
WR	DEVANTE PARKER	6-3	205	Jr.	Louisville
TE	ALAN CROSS	6-1	235	So.	Memphis
C	AUSTIN REITER	6-3	273	Jr.	South Florida
G	AUSTEN BUJNOCH	6-5	285	Sr.	Cincinnati
G	ANTWAN LOWERY	6-4	305	Sr.	Rutgers
T	KALEB JOHNSON	6-4	300	Jr.	Rutgers
T	ERIC LEFELD	6-6	287	Jr.	Cincinnati

### FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	AARON LYNCH	6-6	244	So.	South Florida
DE	JAMIL MERRELL	6-4	255	Sr.	Rutgers
DT	BRANDON DUNN	6-3	285	Sr.	Louisville
DT	JORDAN STEPP	6-1	268	Sr.	Cincinnati
LB	GREG BLAIR	6-2	252	Sr.	Cincinnati
LB	PRESTON BROWN	6-2	255	Sr.	Louisville
LB	YAWIN SMALLWOOD	6-3	244	Jr.	Connecticut
CB	KENNETH ACKER	6-0	195	Sr.	SMU
CB	DEVEN DRANE	5-11	186	Sr.	Cincinnati
S	CALVIN PRYOR	6-2	213	Jr.	Louisville
S	HAKEEM SMITH	6-1	197	Sr.	Louisville

### FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	TONY MILIANO	6-2	186	Jr.	Cincinnati
P	RICHIE LEONE	6-3	215	Sr.	Houston
KR	RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY IV	5-7	161	Jr.	Cincinnati
PR	J.J. WORTON	6-2	209	Jr.	UCF

### SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	BLAKE BORTLES	6-4	227	Jr.	UCF
RB	SAVON HUGGINS	6-0	200	Jr.	Rutgers
RB	STORM JOHNSON	6-1	217	Jr.	UCF
WR	DEONTAY GREENBERRY	6-3	198	So.	Houston
WR	BRESHAD PERRIMAN	6-2	209	So.	UCF
TE	SEAN PRICE	6-3	249	So.	South Florida
C	BETIM BUJARI	6-4	290	Jr.	Rutgers
G	JORDAN MCCRAY	6-4	309	Sr.	UCF
G	JAKE SMITH	6-4	314	Jr.	Louisville
T	ROWDY HARPER	6-6	295	Jr.	Houston
T	TORRIAN WILSON	6-4	308	Jr.	UCF

### SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	MARTIN IFEDI	6-3	260	Jr.	Memphis
DE	MARCUS SMITH	6-3	252	Sr.	Louisville
DT	DARIUS HAMILTON	6-4	260	So.	Rutgers
DT	SHAMAR STEPHEN	6-5	323	Sr.	Connecticut
LB	DEDE LATTIMORE	6-1	237	Sr.	South Florida
LB	TYLER MATAKEVICH	6-1	220	So.	Temple
LB	DERRICK MATHEWS	6-0	210	Jr.	Houston
CB	BYRON JONES	6-1	190	Jr.	Connecticut
CB	ZACH McMILLIAN	5-10	178	Sr.	Houston
S	CLAYTON GEATHERS	6-3	202	Jr.	UCF
S	LORENZO WATERS	6-0	200	Jr.	Rutgers

### SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	JOHN WALLACE	6-0	200	So.	Louisville
P	TOM HORNSEY	6-3	195	Sr.	Memphis
KR	JEREMY DEERING	6-2	210	Sr.	Rutgers
PR	KEIWONE MALONE	5-11	155	Jr.	Memphis



### 2013 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
CINCINNATI	3	6	7	1	4	1	2
CONNECTICUT	6	2	8	8	6	5	5
HOUSTON	7	1	2	5	10	10	7
LOUISVILLE	1	3	1	4	2	2	1
MEMPHIS	8	7	9	7	5	8	10
RUTGERS	4	5	4	2	1	4	3
SMU	5	8	5	9	9	7	4
SOUTH FLORIDA	9	10	6	6	3	6	9
TEMPLE	10	9	10	10	8	3	8
UCF	2	4	3	3	7	9	6



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Head Coach: Charlie Strong  
Record at School: 25-14 (3 years)  
Career Record: 25-15 (3+ years)  
Offensive Coordinator: Shawn Watson  
Defensive Coordinator: Vance Bedford  
Louisville, KY  
Papa John's Cardinal Stadium (55,000)

## 2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 11-1, 7-1 (AMERICAN)

### August

31 Ohio

### September

7 Eastern Kentucky

14 at Kentucky

21 FIU

### October

5 at Temple

10 Rutgers

18 UCF

26 at South Florida

### November

8 at Connecticut

16 Houston

23 Memphis

### December

5 at Cincinnati

## 2012 RESULTS (11-2, 5-2)

Sept. 2	Kentucky	W	32-14
Sept. 8	Missouri State	W	35-7
Sept. 15	North Carolina	W	39-34
Sept. 22	at FIU	W	28-21
Sept. 29	at Southern Miss	W	21-17
Oct. 13	at Pittsburgh	W	45-35
Oct. 20	South Florida	W	27-25
Oct. 26	Cincinnati (at)	W	34-31
Nov. 3	Temple	W	45-17
Nov. 10	at Syracuse	L	26-45
Nov. 24	Connecticut (at)	L	20-23
Nov. 29	at Rutgers	W	20-17
Jan. 2	vs. Florida #	W	33-23

#Sugar Bowl

## TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. James Quick, WR, Louisville, KY
2. Finesse Middleton, DE, Gadsden, AL
3. Kyle Bolin, QB, Lexington, KY
4. DeAsian Richardson, DT, Jacksonville, FL
5. Keith Kelsey, LB, Gainesville, FL
6. Keith Towbridge, TE, Toledo, OH
7. Stacy Thomas, LB, Miami, FL
8. Richard Benjamin, DB, Tampa, FL
9. Charles Williams, CB, Hialeah, FL
10. Kyle Shortridge, DT, Loxahatchee, FL

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big East	National
Scoring	31.2 ppg	2	50
Rushing	122.7 ypg	6	102
Passing	296.1 ypg	1	24
Total	418.8 ypg	3	52
Defense	Per Game	Big East	National
Scoring	23.8 ppg	5	36
Rushing	148.0 ypg	6	48
Passing	192.3 ypg	1	16
Total	340.3 ypg	4	23
T0 Margin	Per Game	Big East	National
+11	+0.85	2	17

# Louisville

# CARDINALS

**OFFENSE** Charlie Strong ended spring practice by saying that he would not trade Teddy Bridgewater for Johnny Manziel — and nobody laughed. A creative playmaker, Bridgewater ignored a broken wrist to direct Louisville to a dominant 33-23 Sugar Bowl win over Florida. It's difficult to imagine that Bridgewater could improve his 27 touchdown passes and 69.0 completion percentage season, but Strong says that Bridgewater knows the schemes as well as his assistants. Louisville's only fear is another injury to Bridgewater, because the backups lack any game experience.

But that's the only place Strong's team lacks sizzle. Halfback Dominique Brown returned from a knee injury for the Spring Game to run like the power back Strong covets. He'll share time with Seniorise Perry, who is also returning from knee surgery. Bridgewater throws to an elite group of receivers. Junior DeVante Parker is NFL-ready, averaging nearly 19 yards per catch. Eli Rogers has been Bridgewater's security blanket since high school. Speedster Damian Copeland led the team in receptions.

Strong's only challenge is replacing two three-year starters on the offensive line. Coaches experimented with guard Jake Smith at the center spot during spring practice, a move Bridgewater endorsed, but Smith remains at guard for now. Tackle Abraham "Taco" Garcia played as a true freshman and has star potential.

# 8.9

Teddy Bridgewater averaged 8.9 yards per attempt last season, fourth-best in the nation among QBs with at least 400 attempts.

**DEFENSE** Strong made his name as a defensive coordinator, and he bristled last season over grumbling about the defense. But there were reasons for the unease. Louisville did not rank in the top half of the Big East in rushing or scoring defense, and the Cardinals did not play to

their potential until the Sugar Bowl, when they recorded a pair of interceptions and three sacks against the Gators.

Only one full-time starter, cornerback Adrian Bushell, must be replaced from that group, so expectations will be extremely high.

Defensive tackles Brandon Dunn and Jamaine Brooks are confirmed run-stuffers. They demand double teams that create lanes for Deiontrez Mount to pursue the quarterback. Linebacker Preston Brown remains a foundational piece of the defense that Strong started building in 2010, and sophomores James Burgess and Keith Brown have star potential. George Durant fended off a challenge from the youngsters and held on to his outside linebacker spot. Terrell Floyd mans a cornerback spot, where he will benefit from the support of a pair of ferocious hitters — safeties Hakeem Smith and Calvin Pryor.

**SPECIALISTS** This is another area where Louisville needs improvement. The Cards failed to rank in the top 100 in either punt or kickoff returns. Perhaps freshman James Quick, who turned down offers from Ohio State, Tennessee and Oregon to stay home, can change that, because he excelled returning punts in high school and is a sprint champion. Placekicker John Wallace was 14-of-14 inside 40 yards. Ryan Johnson, the punter, is dependable, but not spectacular.

**FINAL ANALYSIS** With 14 returning starters, a likely first-round draft pick at quarterback and memories of thumping Florida in New Orleans, anything less than a 12-0 season would be considered a disappointment by many Louisville fans. Strong's team is loaded with speed, toughness and experience on both sides of the ball.

Another reason for raging expectations: the schedule. Louisville likely will not play a top-25 team during the regular season now that Boise State has snubbed the crumbling Big East — known now as the American Athletic Conference. Syracuse, one of two teams to beat Louisville in 2012, is gone to the ACC. That leaves a rivalry game at Kentucky and a season-ending visit to Cincinnati as the major obstacles.

NATIONAL FORECAST **10**

AMERICAN PREDICTION **1**



TEDDY BRIDGEWATER

## THE QUOTE

"Teddy Bridgewater is arguably the best quarterback in the country. He's in the conversation."

— An opposing American assistant coach

## OFFENSE (5)

WR	9	DeVante Parker (Jr.)	86	Matt Milton (Jr.)
WR	4	Robert Clark (Jr.)	82	Eli Rogers (Jr.)
WR	7	Damian Copeland (Sr.)	61	James Quick (Fr.)
LT	77	Abraham Garcia (So.)	74	Ryan Mack (So.)
LG	70	John Miller (Jr.)	63	Josh Stearns (So.)
C	68	Kamran Joyer (Sr.)	62	T.C. Klusman (Fr.)
RG	53	Jake Smith (Jr.)	71	Chris Acosta (Jr.)
RT	79	Jamon Brown (Jr.)	74	Ryan Mack (So.)
TE	18	Gerald Christian (Jr.)	83	Ryan Hubbell (Sr.)
QB	5	Teddy Bridgewater (Jr.)	11	Will Gardner (Fr.)
RB	10	Dominique Brown (Jr.)	32	Seniorise Perry (Sr.)

## DEFENSE (9)

DE	91	Marcus Smith (Sr.)	25	Finesse Middleton (Fr.)
DT	92	Brandon Dunn (Sr.)	93	Roy Philon (Sr.)
DT	99	Jamaine Brooks (Jr.)	97	DeAngelo Brown (So.)
DE	48	Deiontrez Mount (Jr.)	94	Lorenzo Mauldin (Jr.)
OLB	34	George Durant (Sr.)	31	Champ Lee (Sr.)
MLB	2	Preston Brown (Sr.)	1	Keith Brown (So.)
OLB	13	James Burgess (So.)	1	Keith Brown (So.)
CB	19	Terrell Floyd (Jr.)	12	Stephan Robinson (Jr.)
CB	15	Andrew Johnson (Jr.)	3	Charles Gaines (So.)
SS	29	Hakeem Smith (Sr.)	27	Jermaine Reve (So.)
FS	25	Calvin Pryor (Jr.)	8	Gerod Holtiman (So.)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K	45	John Wallace (So.)	KR	20	Corvin Lamb (So.)
P	8	Ryan Johnson (Jr.)	PR		James Quick (Fr.)

## RETURNING LEADERS

**Passing:** Teddy Bridgewater, 419-287-3,718-8, 27 TDs  
**Rushing:** Seniorise Perry, 136 att., 705 yds., 11 TDs  
**Receiving:** Damian Copeland, 50 rec., 628 yds., 2 TDs  
**Tackles:** Preston Brown, 109  
**Sacks:** Lorenzo Mauldin, 4.5  
**Interceptions:** Terrell Floyd, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters





CHARLES HARRIS

### THE QUOTE

"Erratic team. They've been very junior college and transfer heavy in recent years, and they've never really been consistent as a result."

— An opposing American assistant coach

### OFFENSE (6)

WR	7	Keiwone Malone (Jr.)	5	Mose Frazier (So.)
WR	87	Tevin Jones (So.)		Sam Craft
WR	2	Joe Craig (Jr.)	6	Jamere Valentine (Sr.)
LT	77	Taylor Fallin (So.)	61	Markeith Minnick (Fr.)
LG	56	Chris Schuetz (Sr.)	67	Sam Thomas (Fr.)
C	72	Antonio Foster (Sr.)	75	Michael Stannard (So.)
RG	70	Micah Simmons (So.)	78	Kevin McIntyre (Jr.)
RT	54	Al Bond (Jr.)	65	Christopher Roberson (Fr.)
TE	40	Alan Cross (So.)	89	Jesse Milleson (Sr.)
QB	9	Jacob Karam (Sr.)	12	Paxton Lynch (Fr.)
RB	38	Brandon Hayes (Sr.)	32	Jai Steib (Sr.)

### DEFENSE (8)

DE	94	Corey Jones (Sr.)	92	Melvin Jones (Jr.)
NT	56	Terry Redden (Jr.)	59	Johnnie Farms (Sr.)
DT	99	Kendrick Golden (Jr.)	95	Kewan Alfred (Jr.)
DE	97	Martin Ifedi (Jr.)	91	Ricky Hunter (So.)
LB	45	Anthony Brown (Sr.)	13	Tank Jakes (Jr.)
LB	49	Charles Harris (Jr.)	53	Leonard Pegues (So.)
LB	44	Ryan Coleman (Jr.)	16	Wynton McManis (So.)
CB	37	Bakari Holtier (Jr.)	28	Andrew Gaines (Jr.)
CB	21	Bobby McCain (Jr.)	17	Chris Morley (Fr.)
SS	39	Reggis Ball (So.)	19	Anthony Watson (Sr.)
FS	4	Lonnie Ballentine (Sr.)	10	Tavon Bolden (Sr.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Jake Elliott (Fr.)	KR 21	Bobby McCain (Jr.)
P 43	Tom Hornsey (Sr.)	PR 7	Keiwone Malone (Jr.)

### RETURNING LEADERS

**Passing:** Jacob Karam, 274-176-1,895-3, 14 TDs

**Rushing:** Brandon Hayes, 118 att., 576 yds., 6 TDs

**Receiving:** Keiwone Malone, 44 rec., 476 yds., 3 TDs

**Tackles:** Charles Harris, 79

**Sacks:** Martin Ifedi, 7.5

**Interceptions:** Lonnie Ballentine, 3

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

# Memphis TIGERS

**OFFENSE** Second-year coach Justin Fuente enters his first season in the American Athletic Conference, formerly known as the Big East, with a better offense. Fuente returns starting quarterback Jacob Karam, the Texas Tech transfer who ended the season by leading the struggling program to three straight wins. Karam, now a senior, completed 40-of-52 passes for seven touchdowns with only one interception during the streak. As good as Karam was, 6'6" redshirt freshman Paxton Lynch, a Florida native with a strong arm, could be better. He had a solid spring, as did Eric Mathews, a dual-threat QB who served as Karam's backup last fall and has improved substantially as a thrower.

At running back, Fuente returns starter Brandon Hayes and reserve Jai Steib, who put together respectable seasons and helped the Tigers nearly double their rushing average from the previous year. Hayes, a walk-on, had back-to-back 100-yard games to end the year. Hayes and Steib will have to hold off challenges from Marquis Warford, Doroland Dorceus, Robert Davis and Tarris Wallace, four running backs from the 2013 recruiting class. Warford rushed for 2,322 yards and averaged 11.9 yards per carry in high school last fall.

The receiving corps got a boost from the addition of former Clemson wideout Joe Craig, who gives the Tigers the speed they lacked at the position a year ago. Craig joins a group that includes highly regarded local prospect Sam Craft, who might also play basketball at Memphis, along with returnees Keiwone Malone, Tevin Jones and Reggie Travis. Tight end Alan Cross, also a walk-on, was a dependable target for Karam.

Although the offensive line lost all-conference tackle Jordan Devey, three others return to give the unit a foundation on which to operate during its first season in a new league. Taylor Fallin (6'6", 330) is expected to move into Devey's left tackle slot.

**DEFENSE** Former Missouri assistant Barry Odom led a remarkable turnaround as defensive coordinator. He transformed what was one of the worst units in the FBS into a respectable group. In its eight conference games, the U of M ranked first in its former league — Conference USA — in total defense. Odom returns several key players, including former high school teammates Terry Redden and Charles Harris, and end Martin Ifedi, who had 7.5 sacks last year.

Joining Redden up front will be Johnnie Farms, who has the ability to play at the next level. Farms, a 6'2", 300-pound senior, is a prototypical run-stopper. Two linebackers who emerged as playmakers last season — Anthony Brown and Tank Jakes — are back.

In the secondary, which lost two starters, cornerback Bobby McCain and safety Lonnie Ballentine return. McCain, a junior, is the vocal leader of the group, and Ballentine, a 6'3" senior, is likely to draw interest from pro scouts.

The defense should get a significant boost from junior college transfers Ryan Coleman (linebacker) and Kewan Alfred (defensive tackle).

**SPECIALISTS** Punter Tom Hornsey, beginning his third season with the Tigers, should establish himself as one of the new league's best. Memphis, however, will have to find a new placekicker. In an effort to address the shortcoming, the Tigers added two kickers in their last signing class. The punt return unit should be capable with Malone and Craig.

**FINAL ANALYSIS** Fuente made significant strides in his first season, and this year's team should show similar improvement. A big key will be continuity: Fuente was able to retain each member of his coaching staff even though several received job offers from bigger programs. Still, the Tigers will be playing in a more difficult league and may not be able to better last year's record of 4-8 despite an upgrade in talent.



Head Coach: Justin Fuente  
Record at School: 4-8 (1 year)  
Career Record: 4-8 (1 year)  
Offensive Coordinator: Darrell Dickey  
Defensive Coordinator: Barry Odom  
Memphis, TN  
Liberty Bowl (61,000)

### 2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 4-8, 2-6 (AMERICAN)

#### September

7	Duke
14	at Middle Tennessee
21	Arkansas State

#### October

5	UCF
12	at Houston
19	SMU
30	Cincinnati

#### November

9	Tennessee-Martin
16	at South Florida
23	at Louisville
30	Temple

#### December

7	at Connecticut
---	----------------

### 2012 RESULTS (4-8, 4-4)

Sept. 1	Tennessee-Martin	L	17-20
Sept. 8	at Arkansas State	L	28-33
Sept. 15	Middle Tennessee	L	30-48
Sept. 22	at Duke	L	14-38
Oct. 6	Rice	W	14-10
Oct. 13	at East Carolina	L	7-41
Oct. 20	UCF	L	17-35
Oct. 27	at SMU	L	13-44
Nov. 3	at Marshall	L	28-38
Nov. 10	Tulane	W	37-23
Nov. 17	at UAB	W	46-9
Nov. 24	Southern Miss	W	42-24

### TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Marquis Warford, RB, San Antonio, TX
2. Jackson Dillon, LB, Ringling, OK
3. Joe Craig, WR, Gaffney, SC\*
4. Sam Craft, ATH, Olive Branch, MS
5. Brayden Scott, QB, Tulsa, OK
6. Kewan Alfred, DL, Beaumont, TX\*
7. Robert Davis, RB, Tampa, FL
8. Ryan Coleman, LB, Rialto, CA\*
9. Doroland Dorceus, RB, Spring, TX
10. Claude George, LB, Scott, LA

\*junior college transfer

### 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	24.4 ppg	9	86
Rushing	151.8 ypg	6	69
Passing	166.6 ypg	12	109
Total	318.3 ypg	12	110
Defense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	30.3 ppg	6	79
Rushing	138.0 ypg	3	32
Passing	245.6 ypg	6	78
Total	383.6 ypg	3	50
TO Margin	Per Game	C-USA	National
-1	-0.08	6	63





Head Coach: Willie Taggart  
Record at School: First Season  
Career Record: 16-20 (3 years)  
Offensive Coordinator: Walt Wells  
Defensive Coordinator: Chuck Bresnahan  
Tampa, FL  
Raymond James Stadium (65,857)

## 2013 SCHEDULE PROJECTION: 7-5, 5-3 (AMERICAN)

### August

31 McNeese State

### September

7 at Michigan State

14 Florida Atlantic

28 Miami (Fla.)

### October

5 Cincinnati

12 at Connecticut

26 Louisville

31 at Houston

### November

16 Memphis

23 SMU

29 at UCF

### December

7 at Rutgers

## 2012 RESULTS (3-9, 1-6)

Sept. 1	Chattanooga	W	34-13
Sept. 8	at Nevada	W	32-31
Sept. 13	Rutgers	L	13-23
Sept. 22	at Ball State	L	27-31
Sept. 29	Florida State	L	17-30
Oct. 6	at Temple	L	28-37
Oct. 20	at Louisville	L	25-27
Oct. 27	Syracuse	L	36-37
Nov. 3	Connecticut	W	13-6
Nov. 17	at Miami	L	9-40
Nov. 23	at Cincinnati	L	10-27
Dec. 1	Pittsburgh	L	3-27

## TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Derrick Calloway, DT, Bradenton, FL
2. Deadrin Senat, DT, Immokalee, FL
3. Lamar Robbins, DB, Miami, FL
4. Sta'Ton McCray, RB, Kissimmee, FL
5. Dominique Threatt, OL, Atlanta, GA
6. Darius Tice, RB, Miami, FL
7. Torrel Saffold, DB, Kansas City, MO\*
8. Eric Mayes, DE, Sarasota, FL
9. Nigel Harris, LB, Tampa, FL
10. Nate Godwin, DB, Tampa, FL

\*junior college transfer

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Big East	National
Scoring	20.6 ppg	7	104
Rushing	152.0 ypg	4	66
Passing	215.5 ypg	6	78
Total	367.5 ypg	5	89

Defense	Per Game	Big East	National
Scoring	27.4 ppg	7	57
Rushing	149.9 ypg	7	50
Passing	251.9 ypg	7	88
Total	401.8 ypg	7	65

TO Margin	Per Game	Big East	National
-19	-1.58	8	118

# South Florida BULLS

**OFFENSE** Willie Taggart, considered one of the nation's up-and-coming young head coaches after leading Western Kentucky to its first bowl game, has a winning formula that he expects to revive South Florida's underachieving program. Offensively, it revolves around a smart, tough quarterback and a physical running game. The big question: Does either component exist on the Bulls' roster?

The void left behind by B.J. Daniels, a four-year starter who accumulated 10,501 career yards of total offense, will be filled by senior Bobby Eveld or sophomore Matt Floyd. Neither is considered the long-term answer. Freshman Mike White, the only quarterback in Taggart's first recruiting class, could figure in immediately.

In the backfield, only senior Marcus Shaw has appreciable experience, but his career numbers (83 carries for 391 yards) aren't exactly eye-opening. Shaw, haunted by injuries, does have a quick burst and open-field skills. The Bulls could look to junior college transfer Michael Pierre or freshmen Sta'fon McCray and Darius Tice.

There is far more depth at wide receiver, where junior Andre Davis leads the way. Last season, Davis set South Florida single-game records with 12 receptions and 191 yards in a victory at Nevada. But the biggest upside belongs to 6'5" sophomore D'Vario Montgomery.

South Florida has a veteran offensive line, paced by center Austin Reiter and tackle Quinterrius Eatmon, who already has 23 starts. Considering the backfield's work-in-progress outlook, the line's leadership will be vital.

**DEFENSE** New defensive coordinator Chuck Bresnahan, mostly known for his NFL work, seemingly has a difficult task in picking up the pieces from last season's wreckage. Three times last season, the Bulls failed to protect a lead by surrendering 75-yard game-losing touchdown drives in the final minutes. They gave up 228 yards in one quarter (to Nevada) and 34 points in one half (in a 37-36 loss against Syracuse). A lack of takeaways led to a minus-19 turnover ratio.

Bresnahan, though, says he's encouraged by his inherited talent. The pass rush has great potential. Sophomore Aaron Lynch, a Notre Dame transfer and Freshman All-American in 2011 for the Fighting Irish, was virtually unblockable during spring practice. On the other side, senior Ryne Giddins is seeking a return to form after being limited by a shoulder injury last season. Seniors Julius Forte and Tevin Mims should figure into the edge-rush rotation as well.

The linebackers look solid, paced by senior DeDe Lattimore (36 career starts), who shifted from the outside to the middle last season. South Florida's secondary remains the potential problem spot. Most jobs are wide open.

**SPECIALISTS** The Bulls must replace Maikon Bonani, the program's all-time leading scorer. Junior placekicker Marvin Kloss, one of the nation's top prep kicking prospects in 2010 who handled kickoffs the past two seasons, is favored to win the job. Sophomore Mattias Ciabatti, a former double-duty kicker, has a leg up for punter duties.

**FINAL ANALYSIS** "Do something." It's the mantra of Taggart — and it's appropriate for a South Florida program that hasn't done nearly enough in recent seasons. The Bulls, picked for second place in last season's Big East poll, were 3-9 and 1-6 in the league. Skip Holtz was fired after losing 14 of his last 16 conference games.

The Bulls, in the retooled American Athletic Conference, just need to do something, as Taggart might say. The recruiting and energy level already have picked up considerably. A winning record and a bowl-game appearance — not seen at South Florida since 2010 — are achievable steps in the right direction.

NATIONAL FORECAST **71**  
AMERICAN PREDICTION **5**



ANDRE DAVIS

## THE QUOTE

"Defensively, they could be good. The key will be corner play. They've had some young guys struggle and had some injuries."

— An opposing American assistant coach

## OFFENSE (3)

WR 81	Andre Davis (Jr.)	87	Derrick Hopkins (Sr.)
WR 83	Deonte Welch (Jr.)	17	D'Vario Montgomery (So.)
LT 76	Darrell Williams (Jr.)	77	Jake Kaufman (Jr.)
LG 66	Brynjarr Gudmundsson (So.)	72	Steven Jacques (Sr.)
C 78	Austin Reiter (Jr.)	75	Kofi Amichia (Fr.)
RG 64	Thor Jozwiak (So.)	65	Lawrence Martin (Sr.)
RT 70	Quinterrius Eatmon (Jr.)	71	Mak Djulbegovic (So.)
TE 12	Sean Price (So.)	80	Mike McFarland (Jr.)
QB 13	Bobby Eveld (Sr.)	11	Matt Floyd (So.)
FB 11	Ryan Eppes (Sr.)	45	Brandon Harris (Jr.)
RB 20	Marcus Shaw (Sr.)	45	Michael Pierre (Jr.)

## DEFENSE (7)

DE 19	Aaron Lynch (So.)	54	Julius Forte (Sr.)
DT 92	Luke Sager (Sr.)	96	Anthony Hill (Sr.)
DT 53	Elkino Watson (Jr.)	90	James Hamilton (So.)
DE 97	Ryne Giddins (Sr.)	99	Tevin Mims (Sr.)
OLB 16	Reshard Cliett (Jr.)	18	Rahmon Swain (Jr.)
MLB 34	DeDe Lattimore (Sr.)	50	Hans Louis (Jr.)
OLB 52	Zack Bullock (So.)	51	Tashon Whitehurst (So.)
CB 31	Brandon Salinas (Sr.)	21	Torrel Saffold (Jr.)
CB 23	Kenneth Durden (So.)	25	Josh Brown (Sr.)
S 3	Ja'Quez Jenkins (Sr.)	30	Jalen Spencer (Fr.)
S 26	Mark Joyce (Sr.)	14	Fidel Montgomery (Sr.)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

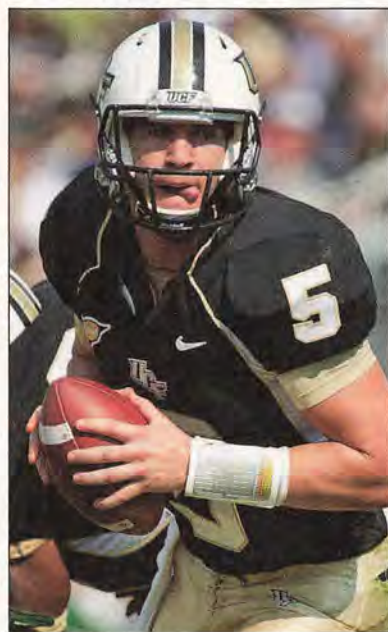
K 27	Marvin Kloss (Jr.)	KR 20	Marcus Shaw (Sr.)
P 49	Mattias Ciabatti (So.)	PR 87	Derrick Hopkins (Sr.)

## RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Matt Floyd, 110-57-466-5, 0 TDs  
Rushing: Marcus Shaw, 51 att., 248 yds., 0 TDs  
Receiving: Andre Davis, 46 rec., 534 yds., 6 TDs  
Tackles: DeDe Lattimore, 76  
Sacks: Ryne Giddins, 3.5; DeDe Lattimore, 3.5  
Interceptions: Elkin Watson, 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters





BLAKE BORTLES

### THE QUOTE

"They have a solid quarterback (Blake Bortles) and playmakers on offense with an experienced line."

— An opposing American assistant coach

### OFFENSE (6)

WR 9	J.J. Worton (Jr.)	6	Rannell Hall (Jr.)
WR 81	Breshad Perriman (So.)	20	Taylor Oldham (Fr.)
WR 2	Jeff Godfrey (Sr.)	19	Josh Reese (Jr.)
LT 72	Torrian Wilson (Jr.)	74	Michael Campbell (Fr.)
LG 63	Jordan McCray (Sr.)	65	Kelly Parfitt (Fr.)
C 55	Joey Grant (So.)	61	Tarik Cook (So.)
RG 64	Justin McCray (Sr.)	76	Colby Watson (Fr.)
RT 70	Chris Martin (Sr.)		Jordan Prestwood (So.)
TE 84	Justin Tukes (Jr.)	87	Cal Bloom (Fr.)
QB 5	Blake Bortles (Jr.)	3	Tyler Gabbert (Jr.)
RB 8	Storm Johnson (Jr.)	17	Cedric Thompson (So.)

### DEFENSE (4)

DE 47	Deion Green (So.)	92	Luke Adams (Fr.)
DT 95	E.J. Dunston (Sr.)	90	Micah Anderson (Fr.)
DT 94	Demetris Anderson (So.)	97	Chester Brown (Fr.)
DE 69	Thomas Niles (So.)		Blake Keller (Fr.)
OLB 57	Troy Gray (Jr.)		Chequan Burkett (Fr.)
MLB 41	Terrance Plummer (Jr.)	52	Maurice Russell (Fr.)
OLB 15	Mike Easton (Jr.)	23	Willie Mitchell (Jr.)
CB 12	Jacoby Glenn (Fr.)	29	D.J. Killings (Fr.)
CB 37	Brandon Alexander (Jr.)	24	Jeremy Davis (Fr.)
SS 26	Clayton Geathers (Jr.)		Shaquem Griffin (Fr.)
FS 30	Nicco Whigham (So.)	21	Drico Johnson (Fr.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K 83	Shawn Moffitt (Jr.)	KR 6	Rannell Hall (Jr.)
P 48	Caleb Houston (Fr.)	PR 9	J.J. Worton (Jr.)

### RETURNING LEADERS

**Passing:** Blake Bortles, 399-251-3,059-7, 25 TDs  
**Rushing:** Storm Johnson, 113 att., 507 yds., 4 TDs  
**Receiving:** J.J. Worton, 44 rec., 594 yds., 5 TDs  
**Tackles:** Clayton Geathers, 117  
**Sacks:** Thomas Niles, 5  
**Interceptions:** 3 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

# UCF KNIGHTS

**OFFENSE** Blake Bortles was a revelation at quarterback for UCF in 2012. This fall, he could be revealed to a much larger audience.

After throwing for 3,059 yards and 25 touchdowns as a sophomore, Bortles comes back in his second season as the starter with an offense that will look to air it out more, according to UCF coach George O'Leary.

The 6'5" quarterback has a full complement of weapons around him, most notably in a deep receiving corps that can beat you with size and speed, from the inside-out. Sophomore Breshad Perriman, son of former NFL wide receiver Brett Perriman, could have a big year after hauling in 26 catches for 388 yards and three touchdowns as a true freshman. And J.J. Worton and Jeff Godfrey, a former quarterback, are matchup nightmares for opposing teams out of the slot.

The Knights are strong across the offensive line, led by left tackle Torrian Wilson.

Storm Johnson, who began his career at Miami, will get a chance to be the featured back this year with Latavius Murray headed to the NFL.

Bortles, though, is the most intriguing prospect of them all. And if he has the season coaches believe he is capable of, UCF could make some noise in its first season in the American Athletic Conference.

**DEFENSE** UCF lost a good chunk of veterans from last season's team that allowed only 22.1 points per game, and O'Leary will look to young players to step into those roles this season.

The defensive line is the one area where the Knights may be better, boosted especially by the addition of 300-pounder Demetris Anderson at tackle and the solid pass-rushing ability of sophomore ends Thomas Niles and Deion Green. UCF struggled up front against the run in 2012, allowing 155.9 yards per game, but will be bigger and more physical this fall. Behind them, though, the picture is murkier.

Terrance Plummer will look to hold together the linebacking corps from the Mike position. The 6'1", 229-pound junior is entering his second full year as a starter, and he led the linebackers with 108 tackles last season. The spots around him could be a rotation, however.

In the secondary, UCF lost safety Kemal Ishmael and cornerback A.J. Bouye, and while juniors Clayton Geathers and Brandon Alexander both started last season, the Knights will look to freshmen to help fill the other spots.

**SPECIALISTS** It looks like redshirt freshman Caleb Houston has the early lead to replace Jamie Boyle, who averaged 40.6 yards per punt last year. The Knights expect Shawn Moffitt to hold onto his kicking job after he connected on 10-of-14 field goals last season. Replacing kickoff returner Quincy McDuffie, who had three return touchdowns and led the country in return average, will be a tough task.

**FINAL ANALYSIS** The knock on UCF has long been its inability to string together winning seasons. With Bortles at the head of an experienced and versatile offense, the Knights feel like they're primed to match their 10-win output from 2012 and silence those critics.

The key will be the growth and development on the other side of the ball, however.

If UCF can develop its defense and find the right players to plug into several key holes in the secondary and at linebacker, it might find a way to challenge for a conference title with the likes of Louisville and Cincinnati. If not, the Knights could struggle against a consistently higher level of competition than they ever faced in Conference USA.

# 174

Blake Bortles had 174 consecutive pass attempts without an interception to end last season, a streak that will carry over into 2013.



Head Coach: George O'Leary  
 Record at School: 60-55 (9 years)  
 Career Record: 112-88 (14 years)  
 Offensive Coordinator: Charlie Taaffe  
 Defensive Coordinator: Jim Fleming  
 Orlando, FL  
 Bright House Networks Stadium (45,323)

### 2013 SCHEDULE PROJECTION: 7-5, 5-3 (AMERICAN)

#### August

29 Akron

#### September

7 at FIU  
 14 at Penn State  
 28 South Carolina

#### October

5 at Memphis  
 18 at Louisville  
 26 Connecticut

#### November

9 Houston  
 16 at Temple  
 21 Rutgers  
 29 South Florida

#### December

7 at SMU

### 2012 RESULTS (10-4, 7-1)

Aug. 30	at Akron	W	56-14
Sept. 8	at Ohio State	L	16-31
Sept. 15	FIU	W	33-20
Sept. 29	Missouri	L	16-21
Oct. 4	East Carolina	W	40-20
Oct. 13	Southern Miss (ot)	W	38-31
Oct. 20	at Memphis	W	35-17
Oct. 27	at Marshall	W	54-17
Nov. 3	SMU	W	42-17
Nov. 10	at UTEP	W	31-24
Nov. 17	at Tulsa	L	21-23
Nov. 24	UAB	W	49-24
Dec. 1	at Tulsa %	(ot) L	27-33
Dec. 21	vs. Ball State #	W	38-17

%C-USA Championship #Beet "O'Brady's Bowl"

### TOP 10 RECRUITS

- Justin Holman, QB, Snellville, GA
- Shaquill Griffin, DB, St. Petersburg, FL
- D.J. Killings, DB, Jacksonville, FL
- Seyvon Lowry, DE, Jacksonville, FL
- Chequan Burkett, LB, Montgomery, AL
- Shaquem Griffin, DB, St. Petersburg, FL
- Mario Mathis, LB, Thomasville, GA
- Blake Keller, DE, Bradenton, FL
- Micah Reed, RB, Crestview, FL
- Pete DiNovo, QB, Tarpon Springs, FL

\*junior college transfer

### 2012 RANKINGS

	Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	35.4 ppg	2	25	
Rushing	181.8 ypg	3	44	
Passing	225.6 ypg	8	68	
Total	407.4 ypg	7	57	
	Defense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	22.1 ppg	1	27	
Rushing	155.9 ypg	5	56	
Passing	217.7 ypg	1	41	
Total	373.6 ypg	2	42	
	TD Margin	Per Game	C-USA	National
	+12	+0.86	2	16



# CONFERENCE USA PREVIEW

## EAST

## PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

## WEST

**1** MARSHALL  
**THUNDERING HERD**  
8-5, 6-2 C-USA

**2** EAST CAROLINA  
**PIRATES**  
7-5, 6-2 C-USA

**3** MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
**BLUE RAIDERS**  
7-5, 5-3 C-USA

**4** UAB  
**BLAZERS**  
5-7, 4-4 C-USA

**5** SOUTHERN MISS  
**GOLDEN EAGLES**  
5-7, 4-4 C-USA

**6** FAU  
**OWLS**  
3-9, 2-6 C-USA

**7** FIU  
**PANTHERS**  
2-10, 1-7 C-USA

**1** TULSA  
**GOLDEN HURRICANE**  
10-3, 7-1 C-USA

**2** RICE  
**OWLS**  
8-4, 6-2 C-USA

**3** LOUISIANA TECH  
**BULLDOGS**  
7-5, 6-2 C-USA

**4** UTEP  
**MINERS**  
5-7, 4-4 C-USA

**5** TULANE  
**GREEN WAVE**  
4-8, 2-6 C-USA

**6** NORTH TEXAS  
**MEAN GREEN**  
3-9, 2-6 C-USA

**7** UTSA  
**ROADRUNNERS**  
1-11, 1-7 C-USA

C-USA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: TULSA OVER MARSHALL



## 2013 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
EAST CAROLINA	2	4	2	1	5	1	7
FAU	14	13	5	13	13	4	9
FIU	7	12	13	14	10	14	8
LOUISIANA TECH	10	2	11	11	2	13	13
MARSHALL	1	7	1	6	3	7	5
MTSU	6	9	10	5	11	6	10
NORTH TEXAS	12	10	12	4	14	3	3
RICE	4	5	7	3	4	8	2
SOUTHERN MISS	13	11	9	12	6	5	4
TULANE	11	8	3	9	8	11	1
TULSA	3	1	4	2	9	2	6
UAB	9	3	8	10	7	9	11
UTEP	5	6	6	7	1	12	12
UTSA	8	14	14	8	12	10	14

## 2012 BOWL RESULTS

**NEW ORLEANS BOWL**  
DEC. 22 NEW ORLEANS, LA.  
UL LAFAYETTE 43  
EAST CAROLINA 34

**ARMED FORCES BOWL**  
DEC. 29 FORT WORTH, TEXAS  
RICE 33  
AIR FORCE 14

**LIBERTY BOWL**  
DEC. 31 MEMPHIS, TENN.  
TULSA 31  
IOWA STATE 17

## PRESEASON ALL-C-USA TEAM

### FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	RAKEEM CATO	6-0	184	Jr.	Marshall
RB	KENNETH DIXON	6-0	215	So.	Louisiana Tech
RB	TREY WATTS	5-11	190	Sr.	Tulsa
WR	JUSTIN HARDY	6-0	186	Jr.	East Carolina
WR	TOMMY SHULER	5-8	190	Jr.	Marshall
TE	GATOR HOSKINS	6-2	242	Sr.	Marshall
C	CHRIS JASPERSE	6-4	290	Jr.	Marshall
G	STETSON BURNETT	6-4	303	Sr.	Tulsa
G	WILL SIMMONS	6-5	342	Sr.	East Carolina
T	JAKE ALEXANDER	6-2	294	Jr.	Tulsa
T	BRANDER CRAIGHEAD	6-6	280	Sr.	UTEP

### FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	CODY BAUER	6-4	255	Sr.	Rice
DE	IK ENEMKPALI	6-2	250	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
DT	BRANDON SPARROW	6-3	295	Sr.	Marshall
DT	KHYRI THORNTON	6-3	308	Sr.	Southern Miss
LB	JEREMY GROVE	6-1	240	Jr.	East Carolina
LB	SHAWN JACKSON	6-0	251	Sr.	Tulsa
LB	DERRELL JOHNSON	6-2	264	Sr.	East Carolina
CB	PHILLIP GAINES	6-1	185	Sr.	Rice
CB	DERON WILSON	5-10	181	Sr.	Southern Miss
S	MARCO NELSON	6-0	192	Jr.	Tulsa
S	RICHARD SPENCER	6-2	200	Sr.	UTEP

### FIRST-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	CAIRO SANTOS	5-8	160	Sr.	Tulane
P	TYLER WILLIAMS	6-0	188	So.	Marshall
KR	TREY WATTS	5-11	190	Sr.	Tulsa
PR	JUSTIN HARDY	6-0	186	Jr.	East Carolina

### SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	SHANE CARDEN	6-2	218	Jr.	East Carolina
RB	VINTAVIOUS COOPER	5-9	200	Sr.	East Carolina
RB	DARRIN REAVES	5-10	210	Jr.	UAB
WR	KEYARRIS GARRETT	6-4	207	Jr.	Tulsa
WR	RYAN GRANT	6-1	190	Sr.	Tulane
TE	NEXON DORVILUS	6-4	230	Sr.	FAU
C	NATE RICHARDS	6-4	300	Sr.	Rice
G	CYRIL LEMON	6-3	321	Jr.	North Texas
G	JEREL WATKINS	6-3	280	Jr.	UTEP
T	JORDAN JEFFRIES	6-8	322	Sr.	Marshall
T	DARIUS JOHNSON	6-3	280	So.	MTSU

### SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DE	ALEX BAZZIE	6-2	225	Sr.	Marshall
DE	HORACE MILLER	6-1	240	Sr.	UTEP
DT	ISAME FACIANE	6-5	295	Sr.	FIU
DT	HOSAM SHAHIN	6-3	290	Sr.	Rice
LB	STEVEN KURFEHS	6-2	230	Sr.	UTSA
LB	CAMERON NWOSU	5-10	240	Sr.	Rice
LB	ZACHARY ORR	6-0	223	Sr.	North Texas
CB	LORENZO DOSS	5-11	168	So.	Tulane
CB	ZAC WHITFIELD	5-9	180	So.	North Texas
S	KEVIN BYARD	5-11	220	So.	MTSU
S	TRISTON WADE	5-11	165	Jr.	UTSA

### SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	CHRIS BOSWELL	6-2	200	Sr.	Rice
P	HUNTER MULLINS	6-3	195	Jr.	UAB
KR	AUTREY GOLDEN	6-0	190	So.	UTEP
PR	KENNY HARRISON	5-9	165	Jr.	UTSA





JONATHAN WALLACE

#### THE QUOTE

"The quarterback position will be the only thing they really need to get squared away to get going."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

#### OFFENSE (6)

WR 88	Jenson Stoshak (So.)	2	DeAndre Richardson (Sr.)
WR 8	Daniel McKinney (Sr.)	15	Jay McCants (So.)
WR 19	William Dukes (Jr.)	83	Marcus Cunningham (Jr.)
LT 63	DeAndre Williams (Sr.)	78	Johnathon Ragoo (Jr.)
LG 74	Stern Vile (Sr.)	69	Isaac Edwards (Fr.)
C 58	Mustafa Johnson (Jr.)	68	Shane Blair (So.)
RG 73	Mike Marsaille (So.)	75	Karl James (Jr.)
RT 51	Braden Lyons (Jr.)	65	Vinny Davino (So.)
TE 9	Nexon Dorvilus (Sr.)	84	Alex Deleon (Jr.)
QB 7	Melvin German III (Sr.)	14	Jaquez Johnson (So.)
HB 27	Jonathan Wallace (Sr.)	22	Damian Fortner (Sr.)

#### DEFENSE (7)

DE 5	Martin Wright (Sr.)	94	Andrew Struffeler (Sr.)
DT 98	Brandin Bryant (So.)	99	Derek Butcher (So.)
DT 48	Trevon Coley (So.)	95	Kayvon Sherrill (Sr.)
DE 31	Cory Henry (Sr.)	92	Joe Henry (Jr.)
OLB 4	Adarius Glanton (Sr.)	34	Freedom Whitfield (So.)
MLB 45	Andrae Kirk (Jr.)	41	Josh Ballesteros (Fr.)
OLB 15	Randell Johnson (Sr.)	57	Michael Copeland (Jr.)
CB 3	Keith Reaser (Sr.)	1	Adrian Burton (Fr.)
CB 21	D'Joun Smith (Jr.)	7	Cre'von LeBlanc (So.)
SS 23	Winfred Strickland (Sr.)	17	Damian Parns (Jr.)
FS 26	Jeremy McKnight (Sr.)		Marc Mauro (Jr.)

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

K 42	Mitch Anderson (Sr.)	KR 25	Travis Jones (Sr.)
P 16	Sean Kelly (So.)	PR 25	Travis Jones (Sr.)

#### RETURNING LEADERS

Passing:	Stephen Curtis, 10-4-37-0, 0 TDs
Rushing:	Jonathan Wallace, 175 att., 673 yds., 6 TDs
Receiving:	William Dukes, 63 rec., 979 yds., 4 TDs
Tackles:	Adarius Glanton, 75
Sacks:	Cory Henry, 2; Randell Johnson, 2
Interceptions:	Adarius Glanton, 2; Keith Reaser, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

# Florida Atlantic OWLS

**OFFENSE** In the second year of Carl Peline's leadership from the sidelines, the coach will turn to a new leader on the field.

Quarterback Graham Wilbert is gone, meaning that the Owls will look to either senior Melvin German III — who ran the scout team last season due to academic issues — or East Mississippi Community College transfer Jaquez Johnson to operate coordinator Brian Wright's spread offense. Both are quite a bit faster than Wilbert, so that should help improve an offense that ranked ninth in the Sun Belt last season with 350.7 yards per game.

The other good news is that the new quarterback will have plenty of experienced targets, with second-team All-Sun Belt pick William Dukes returning and speedster DeAndre Richardson back in the mix after missing 2012 due to an ankle injury. Richardson caught 32 passes for 269 yards two years ago.

The bad news? The quarterback may not get a chance to set his feet, unless the offensive line exceeds expectations, something it hasn't done in recent seasons. DeAndre Williams and Mustafa Johnson appear entrenched at left tackle and center, respectively, but there was a lot of spring shuffling at the other three spots.

Running back Jonathan Wallace, a walk-on who spent a season watching Alfred Morris breaking the school's rushing record, was a nice surprise last season, and he returns after gaining 673 yards. While not an elite breakaway threat — he averaged only 3.7 yards per carry — Wallace's ability to move the chains might help keep the quarterbacks upright.

**DEFENSE** Can the Owls pressure the passer? That's the question. Defensive end Cory Henry, who showed such promise as a freshman, produced only two sacks last season. Now a senior, he needs to do more, as does a bulked-up Martin Wright on the other side. Both were dynamic in the spring game, although that was against an unsettled offensive line.

Hard-hitting cornerback Keith Reaser returns to anchor the secondary, where there appears to be decent depth.

The linebacking group should be able to endure the absence of leader David Hinds, with Andrae Kirk, Adarius Glanton and Randell Johnson all capable of covering considerable ground. Johnson, a pro prospect, could often line up on the line of scrimmage.

**SPECIALISTS** Mitch Anderson, thrust into the placekicking role when Vinny Zaccario abruptly left the team, did not fare well at first, getting three field goal attempts blocked in a three-point, double-overtime loss to South Alabama. He was better thereafter, taking heed of Peline's advice to get more loft on his kicks. Anderson returns, as does punter Sean Kelly, who was a bright spot last season.

**FINAL ANALYSIS** Prior to replacing program patriarch Howard Schnellenberger, Peline served as the defensive coordinator for Nebraska. Still, he didn't inherit anywhere near the same talent that he had in Lincoln, and the progress of the defense proved uneven in 2012. The offense was uneven, too, as Wright was limited in what he could do with Wilbert.

Now Peline has a few more of his players, bringing in a recruiting class widely regarded as among the best in school history. FAU appears to be moving in the right general direction in some areas — its penalty yardage, for instance, was way down in Peline's first season. The out-of-conference schedule, while still including an opener at Miami, isn't quite as brutal as in 2012, when the Owls faced Georgia and Alabama on the road in consecutive weeks.

Yet the move to Conference USA, a year ahead of schedule, could make the ride bumpy, as could the inexperience at quarterback.

**12**

The Owls must generate a push rush this year after recording only 12 sacks last season, the fifth-fewest in the nation.



Head Coach: Carl Peline  
Record at School: 3-9 (1 year)  
Career Record: 3-9 (1 year)  
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Wright  
Defensive Coordinator: Pete Rekstis  
Boca Raton, FL  
FAU Stadium (29,419)

#### 2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 3-9, 2-6 (C-USA)

#### August

30 at Miami (Fla.)

#### September

5 at East Carolina

14 at South Florida

21 Middle Tennessee

28 at Rice

#### October

5 at UAB

12 Marshall

26 at Auburn

#### November

2 Tulane

16 at Southern Miss

23 New Mexico State

29 FIU

#### 2012 RESULTS (3-9, 2-6)

Aug. 31	Wagner	W	7-3
Sept. 8	at Middle Tennessee	L	17-31
Sept. 15	at Georgia	L	20-56
Sept. 22	at Alabama	L	7-40
Sept. 29	North Texas	L	14-20
Oct. 13	at ULM	L	14-35
Oct. 20	at South Alabama (ot)	L	34-37
Oct. 27	Troy	W	34-27
Nov. 3	at Navy	L	17-24
Nov. 10	at Western Kentucky	W	37-28
Nov. 16	FIU	L	24-34
Dec. 1	UL Lafayette	L	21-35

#### TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Jaquez Johnson, QB, Starkville, MS\*
2. Austin Bland, G, Fort Lauderdale, FL
3. Jay Warren, RB, Navarre, FL
4. Lance Burlingame, DT, Franklin, MA\*
5. Marc Mauro, S, Bayville, NY\*
6. Andrew Curtis, LB, Paradise Valley, AZ
7. DJ Juste, ATH, Port St. Lucie, FL
8. Branden Lyons, T, Sonoma, CA\*
9. Kalib Woods, WR, Jacksonville, FL
10. Robert Miller, S, Fort Lauderdale, FL

\*junior college transfer

#### 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	20.5 ppg	9	105
Rushing	113.1 ypg	9	107
Passing	237.6 ypg	6	60
Total	350.7 ypg	9	98

Defense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	30.8 ppg	8	84
Rushing	202.1 ypg	9	102
Passing	204.0 ypg	1	27
Total	406.1 ypg	4	70

TO Margin	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
-2	-0.17	7	73





Head Coach: Ron Turner  
Record at School: First Season  
Career Record: 42-61 (9 years)  
Offensive Coordinator: Ron Turner  
Defensive Coordinator: Josh Conklin  
Miami, FL  
FIU Stadium (20,000)

## 2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 2-10, 1-7 (C-USA)

### August

31 at Maryland

### September

7 UCF

14 Bethune-Cookman

21 at Louisville

### October

5 at Southern Miss

12 UAB

26 Louisiana Tech

### November

2 East Carolina

9 at Middle Tennessee

16 at UTEP

23 Marshall

29 at Florida Atlantic

## 2012 RESULTS (3-9, 2-6)

Sept. 1	at Duke	L	26-46
Sept. 8	Akron	(ot) W	41-38
Sept. 15	at UCF	L	20-33
Sept. 22	Louisville	L	21-28
Sept. 29	at UL Lafayette	L	20-48
Oct. 4	Arkansas State	L	20-34
Oct. 13	Middle Tennessee	L	30-34
Oct. 20	at Troy	L	37-38
Oct. 27	Western Kentucky	L	6-14
Nov. 3	at South Alabama	W	28-20
Nov. 16	at Florida Atlantic	W	34-24
Nov. 24	ULM	(ot) L	17-23

## TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Vontarius West, DB, Bartow, FL
2. Xavier Hines, DB, Miami, FL
3. Willie Smith, DB, Bradenton, FL
4. Chris Flaig, OL, Vero Beach, FL
5. Treyvon Williams, LB, Miami, FL
6. Silas Spearman, RB, Royal Palm Beach, FL
7. Wilkenson Myrtill, DB, Orlando, FL
8. Travis Wright, QB, Louisville, KY
9. Tofi Paopao, QB, Oceanside, CA
10. Jordan Budwig, OL, Fort Lauderdale, FL

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	25.0 ppg	7	82
Rushing	145.3 ypg	7	80
Passing	238.4 ypg	5	56
Total	383.8 ypg	8	76
Defense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	31.7 ppg	9	89
Rushing	140.8 ypg	2	36
Passing	262.1 ypg	7	96
Total	402.9 ypg	3	66
T0 Margin	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
-4	-0.33	8	82

FIU

# PANTHERS

**OFFENSE** After the surprising firing of Mario Cristobal, and the unsuccessful attempt to attract Butch Davis, athletic director Pete Garcia brought in a man with 36 years of coaching experience at the collegiate or professional level.

And, since most of Ron Turner's experience — with the exception of head coaching stints at Illinois and San Jose State — has come as an offensive assistant, even as the coordinator for the Chicago Bears in a Super Bowl, that's the unit that will be most closely scrutinized.

This won't be an easy job. Only three offensive starters return, including off-injured quarterback Jake Medlock, who threw only two interceptions but will be pushed by backup E.J. Hilliard, who showed some improvement in the spring. Medlock takes a lot of hits, and that is likely to continue unless a green line jells quickly. Only three returning lettermen have started a single game, and now all must adjust to a system change — from the spread to pro-style — that calls for far fewer shotgun snaps.

There should be more optimism about the so-called skill positions, with leading returning rusher Kedrick Rhodes, along with Willis Wright and Glenn Coleman, who are capable receivers who can get open down the field.

**DEFENSE** This unit was a mixed bag last season, with strong numbers against the run and solid ones against the pass, but too many big plays yielded when it mattered most, and too little resistance offered in the red zone.

Now the two best players, safety Jonathan Cyprien and end Tourek Williams (6.5 sacks), are off to the NFL, and the entire starting linebacking trio is gone, too.

So new coordinator Josh Conklin, the former safeties coach at Tennessee, has the opportunity to shape his 4-3 defense with at least nine new starters. That defense will often look like a 4-2-5 with sophomore linebacker Davison Colimon dropping back to his former spot as a safety.

The standout figures to be cornerback Richard Leonard, who will be complemented on the other side by Sam Miller. And even with all the player departures, there is some experience on the defensive line (watch Giovanni Francois and Isame Faciane) and an abundance of athletic ability in the back seven. Patrick Jean, one of three sophomores expected to start at linebacker, had an especially strong spring.

**SPECIALISTS** Jack Griffin and Josh Brisk held the role of kicker and punter for 40 and 36 games, respectively. With both gone, Sergio Sroka steps into the kicker spot, while Medlock — in addition to his quarterbacking duties — was competing with Chris Ayers to punt. The return game should be dynamic, even if Leonard (touchdowns in 2012 on both a punt and a kickoff) gives up those duties to De'Andre Jasper.

**FINAL ANALYSIS** Last season was a downer, with FIU falling well short of expectations. Still, the dismissal of the popular Cristobal — who ended up at Alabama after a brief stop at Miami — was not well-received by many Panthers backers, who felt he'd done enough to elevate the program that he should have gotten another shot. Now Turner, who won Big Ten Coach of the Year back in 2001, takes over during a transitional time, with the move from the Sun Belt to Conference USA, a low number of starters returning, and a rather small recruiting class.

The Panthers had better beat Bethune-Cookman early on, or else they could be 0-4 before the bye. Then it will be even harder to bring back the enthusiasm that was prevalent around this program only two years ago.

NATIONAL FORECAST 118

C-USA EAST PREDICTION 7



KEDRICK RHODES

## THE QUOTE

"They will have one of the best defenses in the conference, and their defensive line gives everybody trouble."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

## OFFENSE (3)

WR 1	Willis Wright (Sr.)	81	Jairus Williams (Sr.)
WR 10	Glenn Coleman (Sr.)	82	Dominique Rhymes (So.)
LT 70	Aaron Nielsen (So.)	63	Ian Koch (Fr.)
LG 50	David Delsoin (Jr.)	59	Prince Matt (So.)
C 59	Donald Senat (Jr.)	75	Edens Sineace (Fr.)
RG 73	Trenton Saunders (Fr.)	77	Jordan White (Jr.)
RT 76	Yousif Khoury (So.)	71	Delmar Taylor (Jr.)
TE 80	Ya'keem Griner (So.)	33	Zach Schaubhut (Sr.)
QB 12	Jake Medlock (Jr.)	13	E.J. Hilliard (So.)
FB 36	Lemarg Caldwell (So.)	33	Zach Schaubhut (Sr.)
HB 9	Kedrick Rhodes (Sr.)	20	Shane Coleman (So.)

## DEFENSE (2)

DE 9	Giovanni Francois (Jr.)	11	Denzell Perine (So.)
DT 99	Isame Faciane (Sr.)	41	Jerrico Lee (Jr.)
DT 44	Darrian Dyson (So.)	90	Fadol Brown (So.)
DE 92	Paul Crawford (Sr.)	8	Greg Hickman (Sr.)
OLB 48	Luis Rosado (So.)	22	Markeith Russell (Sr.)
MLB 13	Patrick Jean (So.)	55	Michael Wakefield (So.)
OLB 35	Davison Colimon (So.)	25	Derrick Jones (Sr.)
CB 3	Richard Leonard (Jr.)	23	Terrance Taylor (Sr.)
CB 39	Sam Miller (Sr.)	31	Jeremiah McKinnon (So.)
SS 26	Mitch Wozniak (Jr.)	43	Antwaine Bell (Sr.)
FS 32	Justin Halley (Jr.)	14	Demarkus Perkins (Jr.)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K 56	Sergio Sroka (Fr.)	KR 3	Richard Leonard (Jr.)
P 40	Chris Ayers (Fr.)	PR 83	De'Andre Jasper (So.)

## RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Jake Medlock, 263-152-2, 127-2, 13 TDs

Rushing: Kedrick Rhodes, 167 att., 714 yds., 4 TDs

Receiving: Willis Wright, 25 rec., 633 yds., 5 TDs

Tackles: Sam Miller, 62

Sacks: Giovanni Francis, 4.5

Interceptions: 3 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters





KENNETH DIXON

### THE QUOTE

"(The new staff) is going to try to do something similar offensively, but it's going to be tough. They have to replace so many guys."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

### OFFENSE (1)

WR	5	D.J. Banks (Sr.)	2	Jaydrick DeClouette (Fr.)
WR	36	Hunter Lee (Jr.)	82	Travis Reyes (Jr.)
WR	19	Andrew Guillot (Sr.)	80	Jon Greenwalt (Sr.)
WR	3	Paul Turner (So.)	1	Richie Casey (Sr.)
LT	78	Mitchell Bell (Jr.)	77	Jens Danielson (Jr.)
LG	74	Larry Banks (Sr.)	68	Josh Robinson (So.)
C	79	Alec Davis (Sr.)	62	Joseph Brunson (So.)
RG	66	Matt Shepperd (Jr.)	65	Richard Greenwalt (Jr.)
RT	72	Jeremy Graffree (Sr.)	75	Darrell Brown (Fr.)
QB	16	Scotty Young (Jr.)	14	Ryan Higgins (Fr.)
RB	28	Kenneth Dixon (So.)	26	Tevin King (Fr.)

### DEFENSE (4)

DE	22	Kendrick James (Sr.)	98	Vontarrius Dora (So.)
DT	94	Shakeil Lucas (Sr.)	45	Vernon Butler (So.)
DT	70	Justin Ellis (Sr.)	90	DeAngelo Brooks (Jr.)
DE	41	IK Enemkpali (Sr.)	84	Andre Taylor (Jr.)
LB	32	Mitch Villemez (Jr.)	48	Andre Wiggins (So.)
LB	6	Beau Fitte (So.)	24	Nick Thomason (Jr.)
CB	15	Bryson Abraham (So.)	21	Adairius Barnes (So.)
CB	13	LeVander Liggins (Jr.)	17	Tra'Vez Taylor (So.)
S	16	Jabari Prewitt (Jr.)	19	Ronnie Fields (Jr.)
FS	11	Lloyd Grogan (Fr.)	35	C.J. Cleveland (So.)
SS	23	Kentrell Brice (So.)	29	Kendall Hayes (Jr.)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Jonathan Barnes (Fr.)	KR	5	D.J. Banks (Sr.)
P	Logan McPherson (Fr.)	PR	5	D.J. Banks (Sr.)

### RETURNING LEADERS

**Passing:** Zach Griffith, 6-3-31-0, 0 TDs  
**Rushing:** Kenneth Dixon, 200 att., 1,194 yds., 27 TDs  
**Receiving:** D.J. Banks, 33 rec., 434 yds., 2 TDs  
**Tackles:** LeVander Liggins, 50  
**Sacks:** IK Enemkpali, 6  
**Interceptions:** LeVander Liggins, 2

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

# Louisiana Tech BULLDOGS

**OFFENSE** The good news? Louisiana Tech led the nation in total offense (577.9 ypg) and scoring (51.5 ppg) last season. The bad news? Ten offensive starters are gone, including quarterback Colby Cameron, and head coach Sonny Dykes and offensive coordinator Tony Franklin also departed.

New coach Skip Holtz is starting over in a lot of ways, but he will keep the spread attack that the Bulldogs used so effectively in 2012. Holtz does not want to push the tempo as much, but he will use most of the same four-wide sets. Texas Tech transfer Scotty Young has the inside track to replace Cameron at quarterback. Young was recruited to play in Mike Leach's Air Raid attack, but Leach was fired before Young got to campus, and Young never won the job with Tommy Tuberville as coach. Young has a strong arm and showed some mobility in the spring.

His receiving corps has some experience, led by D.J. Banks, who will have to take on the leadership role as a senior after being a productive reserve last season with 33 catches for 434 yards and two touchdowns.

Running back Kenneth Dixon set the FBS record for rushing touchdowns by a freshman (27), and he will be ably supported by Tevin King, but the offensive line is a big question mark. Four starters are gone, and there are few all-league candidates among the projected starters — at least coming out of spring. While Dixon is a true star, his production will likely dip with a new line in front of him.

**DEFENSE** As good as Louisiana Tech's offense was in 2012, its defense was almost that bad. The Bulldogs ranked No. 116 in scoring defense and No. 120 in total defense, so losing seven starters off that unit isn't necessarily a bad thing.

Up front, Holtz has been impressed with the depth he inherited, which includes three starters from last year's unit that actually ranked No. 3 in the WAC against the run. IK Enemkpali has the potential to earn All-C-USA honors at defensive end, and run-stuffer Justin Ellis has slimmed down to 330 pounds and should be a handful as a senior for opposing offensive linemen.

The Bulldogs are using a 4-2-5 alignment, with both starting linebackers potentially being newcomers. Mitch Villemez and Nick Thomason are junior college transfers who impressed in the spring. Athletic Beau Fitte is also pushing for a starting spot.

In the secondary, LeVander Liggins is a holdover from last year's unit, and he showed major improvement in spring drills. It appears that Jabari Prewitt, Lloyd Grogan and Kentrell Brice will be the three safeties, with Brice, a Ruston native, impressing the staff the most during spring practice.

**SPECIALISTS** Louisiana Tech is bidding farewell to two-time Ray Guy winner Ryan Allen and replacing him with true freshman Logan McPherson. The Bulldogs led the nation in net punting largely on the strength of Allen's leg, but the coverage unit also excelled. Another true freshman, Jonathan Barnes, takes over at kicker, while Banks will continue to handle return duties.

**FINAL ANALYSIS** Louisiana Tech should expect another season of bowl-eligibility, but winning Conference USA in its first year in the league under a new coach may be too much. The offense has potential with the explosive Dixon at running back, but the offensive line and quarterback positions are still question marks. The schedule is not overly challenging, with the toughest league games coming late in the year. So if the newcomers can get acclimated, Louisiana Tech may find itself playing in some very meaningful league games in November.



Head Coach: Skip Holtz  
 Record at School: First Season  
 Career Record: 88-71 (13 years)  
 Offensive Coordinator: Tony Petersen  
 Defensive Coordinator: Kim Dameron  
 Ruston, LA  
 Joe Aillet Stadium (30,600)

### 2013 SCHEDULE

PROJECTION: 7-5, 6-2 (C-USA)

#### August

31 at NC State

#### September

7 Lamar  
 12 Tulane  
 21 at Kansas  
 28 vs. Army #

#### October

5 at UTEP  
 19 North Texas  
 26 at FIU

#### November

9 Southern Miss  
 16 at Rice  
 23 Tulsa  
 30 at UTSA

#Dallas, TX

### 2012 RESULTS (9-3, 4-2)

Sept. 8	at Houston	W	56-49
Sept. 15	Rice	W	56-37
Sept. 22	at Illinois	W	52-24
Sept. 29	at Virginia	W	44-38
Oct. 6	UNLV	W	58-31
Oct. 13	vs. Texas A&M %	L	57-59
Oct. 20	Idaho	W	70-28
Oct. 27	at New Mexico State	W	28-14
Nov. 3	UTSA	W	51-27
Nov. 10	at Texas State	W	62-55
Nov. 17	Utah State (ot)	L	41-48
Nov. 24	at San Jose State	L	43-52

%Shreveport, LA

### TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Xavier Woods, CB, West Monroe, LA
2. Hakim Gray, DE, Keachi, LA
3. Eddie Johnson, WR, Midlothian, TX\*
4. Mitchell Bell, G, Houston, TX\*
5. Trent Taylor, WR, Shreveport, LA
6. Terrell Pinson, S, Tupelo, MS\*
7. Carlos Henderson, ATH, New Orleans, LA
8. DeAngelo Brooks, DT, Shreveport, LA\*
9. Nick Thomason, LB, Muscle Shoals, AL\*
10. Mitch Villemez, LB, Brenham, TX\*

\*junior college transfer

### 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	WAC	National
Scoring	51.5 ppg	1	1
Rushing	227.2 ypg	1	17
Passing	350.8 ypg	1	3
Total	577.9 ypg	1	1
Defense	Per Game	WAC	National
Scoring	38.5 ppg	3	116
Rushing	185.7 ypg	3	83
Passing	340.4 ypg	5	120
Total	526.1 ypg	5	120
TOT Margin	Per Game	WAC	National
+13	+1.08	1	10





Head Coach: Rick Stockstill  
Record at School: 43-44 (7 years)  
Career Record: 43-44 (7 years)  
Offensive Coordinator: Buster Faulkner  
Co-Defensive Coordinators: Steve Ellis, Tyrone Nix  
Murfreesboro, TN  
Floyd Stadium (30,788)

## 2013 SCHEDULE PROJECTION: 7-5, 5-3 (C-USA)

### August

29 Western Carolina

### September

7 at North Carolina

14 Memphis

21 at Florida Atlantic

27 at BYU

### October

5 East Carolina

12 at North Texas

24 Marshall

### November

2 at UAB

9 FIU

23 at Southern Miss

30 UTEP

## 2012 RESULTS (8-4, 6-2)

Aug. 30	McNeese State	L	21-27
Sept. 8	Florida Atlantic	W	31-17
Sept. 15	at Memphis	W	48-30
Sept. 29	at Georgia Tech	W	49-28
Oct. 6	ULM	L	17-31
Oct. 13	at FIU	W	34-30
Oct. 20	at Mississippi State	L	3-45
Oct. 27	North Texas	W	38-21
Nov. 1	at Western Kentucky	W	34-29
Nov. 17	at South Alabama	W	20-12
Nov. 24	Troy	W	24-21
Dec. 1	at Arkansas State	L	0-45

## TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. Kamani Thomas, RB, Dallas, GA
2. Shane Tucker, RB, Memphis, TN
3. Shon Akins, CB, Norcross, GA
4. Devin Clarke, WR, Sebring, FL\*
5. Jevontey Smith, WR, Greensboro, AL
6. Kenderson Obas, DT, Orlando, FL
7. A.J. Erdely, QB, Cumming, GA
8. Ed Marques Batties, WR, Fresno, TX\*
9. Canon Rooker, K, Richmond Hill, GA
10. Dalton Ownby, OL, Alcoa, TN

\*junior college transfer

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	26.6 ppg	6	75
Rushing	176.7 ypg	4	46
Passing	216.1 ypg	8	77
Total	392.8 ypg	5	66

Defense	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
Scoring	28.0 ppg	4	62
Rushing	188.3 ypg	8	84
Passing	252.6 ypg	5	90
Total	440.8 ypg	8	92

TD Margin	Per Game	Sun Belt	National
+10	+0.83	1	19

# Middle Tennessee BLUE RAIDERS

**OFFENSE** Senior quarterback Logan Kilgore, workhorse running back Jordan Parker and an experienced offensive line point to a big offensive year for Middle Tennessee. Kilgore has polished his game after passing for more than 4,800 yards and 34 TDs over the past two seasons. Parker rushed for a Blue Raider freshman record 851 yards in only six starts in 2012. He will be joined by speedy backs Reggie Whitley and Jeremiah Bryson, who can also contribute to the passing game.

Depth issues at receiver slowed the offense late last season, but junior college transfers like Devin Clarke and Chris Perkins could help fill that gap. Also, fifth-year senior Tavarres Jefferson, who led the team in receptions in 2011, returns from an injury that sidelined him last season. Four starters on a strong offensive line are back, but finding a center has been an offseason project.

Balance is the goal, as the offense will go as far as Parker and Kilgore can take it.

"We evolved into more of a run-oriented offense last year, especially late in the year when we had injuries at receiver," offensive coordinator Buster Faulkner says. "We found out we could win games running the ball, so we did. But I see us trying to be a little more balanced on the passing end this year."

# 15

Middle Tennessee has allowed only 15 sacks in the last two seasons, the fewest in the nation. Boise State and Air Force are next at 18.

**DEFENSE** In his first year, defensive coordinator Tyrone Nix stabilized the Blue Raider stop squad. It was solid but lacked a biting pass rush. Finding pressure is priority No. 1 for Nix.

"We want to be able to get pressure, so we don't have to leave our defensive backs out on an island," he says. "We have some guys that have had their moments. But we need them to show it more consistently."

Defensive end Alexandro Antoine and hybrid linebacker/defensive ends Leighton Gasque and Stephen Roberts are the top pass-rushing candidates. If they can add some pressure, it will greatly help a secondary that gave up too many big plays last season. Cornerback Kenneth Gilstrap and 2012 Freshman All-America safety Kevin Byard are proven performers, but most of the defensive backs have more untapped talent than experience.

Senior middle linebacker Roderic Blunt and defensive tackle Jimmy Staten are defensive leaders, but sophomore outside linebacker T.T. Barber fits the bill as the playmaker Nix needs.

**SPECIALISTS** Whitley was one of the nation's best kick returners last season, and Josh Davis is an experienced punter. Placekicker is wide open between Zachary Lopez, redshirt freshman Cody Clark and prized prospect Canon Rooker. None has attempted a college kick.

**FINAL ANALYSIS** Last season's Middle Tennessee squad overachieved with an 8-4 record, but it suffered a bowl game snub in its final season in the Sun Belt Conference. Now 14 starters return from that team, which still feels vexed by the exclusion as it enters Conference USA. The schedule includes several unknowns, as the Blue Raiders have not played seven of its 2013 opponents in the past decade. But head coach Rick Stockstill still believes his team could contend for a title in its debut season.

"Our goal is to win this conference," Stockstill says. "Are we good enough to do that? I don't know because I haven't seen the other teams in Conference USA. There's an unknown there of how we stack up, but our mindset is on winning the conference."

Middle Tennessee's C-USA slate should be comparable to past Sun Belt competition, so bowl-eligibility is realistic. But the Blue Raiders must keep Kilgore and Parker healthy and develop more playmakers on defense to make a serious run at the conference crown.

NATIONAL FORECAST **98**

C-USA EAST PREDICTION **3**



LOGAN KILGORE

## THE QUOTE

"They got their confidence back. The improvement in their defense was the biggest reason they turned it around."

— An opposing assistant coach

## OFFENSE (8)

WR 81	Christian Collis (So.)	80	Chris Perkins (Jr.)
WR 9	Kyle Griswold (Sr.)	86	Devin Clarke (Jr.)
WR 3	Tavarres Jefferson (Sr.)	84	Terry Pettis (Fr.)
WR 19	Marcus Henry (Jr.)	13	Demetrius Frazier (Fr.)
LT 75	Darius Johnson (So.)	68	Jesse Grisham (Jr.)
LG 77	Josh Walker (Jr.)	62	Patrick Hughes (Jr.)
C 60	Nick Nunez (Jr.)	67	Josh Chester (Fr.)
RG 61	Jadareius Hamlin (Sr.)	78	Adam Sticket (Fr.)
RT 73	Isaiah Anderson (Jr.)	65	Hunter Rogers (Fr.)
QB 10	Logan Kilgore (Sr.)	11	Austin Grammer (Fr.)
RB 26	Jordan Parker (So.)	25	Reggie Whitley (Jr.)

## DEFENSE (6)

DE 17	Alexandro Antoine (So.)	55	Shubert Bastien (Jr.)
DT 92	Patrick McNeil (Jr.)	98	Derious Bennett (Fr.)
DT 90	Jimmy Staten (Jr.)	91	J.D. Jones (So.)
DE 97	Jiajuan Fennell (Jr.)	89	Dearco Nolan (Sr.)
OLB 22	David Jones (Sr.)	30	Stephen Roberts (Sr.)
MLB 33	Roderic Blunt (Sr.)	28	Christian Henry (Jr.)
OLB 38	T.T. Barber (So.)	40	Leighton Gasque (Jr.)
CB 18	Kenneth Gilstrap (Sr.)	27	Chris Sharpe (Jr.)
CB 8	Sammy Seamster (Sr.)	24	Jared Singletary (So.)
SS 20	Kevin Byard (So.)	23	Chris Brown (Fr.)
FS 34	Anfonnee Stewart (Fr.)	31	Reginald Farmer (Sr.)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K 89	Cody Clark (Fr.)	KR 25	Reggie Whitley (Jr.)
P 48	Josh Davis (Sr.)	PR 9	Kyle Griswold

## RETURNING LEADERS

**Passing:** Logan Kilgore, 335-212-2,571-6, 16 TDs  
**Rushing:** Jordan Parker, 166 att., 851 yds., 3 TDs  
**Receiving:** Anthony Amos, 72 rec., 992 yds., 9 TDs  
**Tackles:** Craig Allen, 82  
**Sacks:** Leighton Gasque, 4  
**Interceptions:** Kevin Byard, 4

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters





DERON WILSON

**THE QUOTE**

"People need to be ready for them because they'll be back. They won't have another year like that again."

— Quote Cite

**OFFENSE (2)**

WR	9	Chris Briggs (Jr.)	81	Rickey Bradley Jr. (Sr.)
WR	25	Justin Sims (Sr.)	83	Cooper Harrington (So.)
WR	87	Francisco Llanos (Sr.)	24	Dimitri Smith (Jr.)
WR	18	Dominique Sullivan (Sr.)	5	D.J. Thompson (So.)
LT	73	Rashod Hill (So.)	72	Aaron Reed (So.)
LG	56	Garrett Clark (So.)	79	Taylor Peterson (Jr.)
C	66	Jordan Greene (So.)	78	Devin Farrior (Fr.)
RG	77	Ed Preston (Sr.)	75	Michael Brown (So.)
RT	74	Cedric Chisolm (Jr.)	70	Vincent Brown (Sr.)
QB	7	Kyle Slotter (Fr.)	8	Ricky Lloyd (So.)
RB	3	Tyre Bracken (So.)	29	Kendrick Hardy (Sr.)

**DEFENSE (7)**

DE	91	Michael Smith (So.)	47	Nic Bekkers (Jr.)
NT	97	Rakeem Nunez-Roches (Jr.)	49	Rod Crayton (Fr.)
DT	98	Khyri Thornton (Sr.)	49	Adam Williams (Jr.)
DE	99	Octavius Thomas (Sr.)	94	Anthony Wilson (Sr.)
LB	55	Dylan Reda (Sr.)	14	Terrick Wright (So.)
LB	37	Alan Howze (Sr.)	40	C.J. Perry (Fr.)
LB	5	Jerrion Johnson (Sr.)	16	Alex Smith (Sr.)
CB	22	Deron Wilson (Sr.)	19	Urell Johnson (Jr.)
CB	11	Kalan Reed (So.)	31	Alex Walters (Sr.)
SS	12	Emmanuel Johnson (Jr.)	26	Debarrius Miller (So.)
FS	28	Jacorius Cotton (Sr.)	16	Alex Smith (Sr.)

**SPECIAL TEAMS**

K	25	Corey Acosta (Jr.)	KR	3	Tyre Bracken (So.)
P	33	Matt Moseley (So.)	PR	87	Francisco Llanos (Sr.)

**RETURNING LEADERS**

Passing: Ricky Lloyd, 44-22-277-3, 1 TD

Rushing: Jalen Richard, 87 att., 426 yds., 4 TDs

Receiving: Justin Sims, 20 rec., 294 yds., 0 TDs

Tackles: Alan Howze, 66

Sacks: Alan Howze, 2.5

Interceptions: 4 players tied with 1

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters

**Southern Miss****GOLDEN EAGLES**

**OFFENSE** After going winless for the first time since 1925, Southern Miss fired Ellis Johnson after one season and replaced him with Todd Monken. Formerly the offensive coordinator at Oklahoma State, Monken will bring his spread offense to the program, and 6'4" strong-armed redshirt freshman Kyle Slotter is expected to get the nod at quarterback, a position Monken will coach. Sophomore Ricky Lloyd started two games and played in five before suffering a torn ACL, which limited him in spring workouts.

A depleted, inexperienced offense will be deep at running back. Jalen Richard, a 5'8" sophomore, is the returning rushing leader (426 yards), and he'll get pushed by Tyre Bracken. Senior Kendrick Hardy also returns. Monken says the offense will look to the running backs to take the lead role.

The Golden Eagles will possess impressive size at receiver, where 6'5" junior Chris Briggs and 6'3" senior Dominique Sullivan return. A year ago, Briggs, whose uncle Jake Reed played for the Minnesota Vikings, averaged 13.1 yards per reception, while Sullivan started 10 games and led the team with three touchdown catches. Justin Sims and Francisco Llanos each had 20 catches, tied for second-most on the team.

The USM offensive line, perennially a solid unit, must replace four starters. Ed Preston, who started at right guard in 2012, is back.

**DEFENSE** The best news for the defense is the return of former assistant David Duggan as defensive coordinator. Duggan is familiar with the players, many of whom he recruited as an assistant under former head coach Larry Fedora. Duggan was co-defensive coordinator in 2011 when the Golden Eagles set an NCAA record for interceptions returned for touchdowns.

Duggan will welcome seven starters back, but the gaping hole in the defensive front will be the one left by the departure of Jamie Collins, a defensive end who had 21 sacks and 45 tackles for a loss during his career. His likely replacement is veteran Octavius Thomas, a 6'3" senior who sat out last season because of academic issues. Thomas is more of a prototypical defensive end at 6'3" and 230 pounds. Rakeem Nunez-Roches possesses quick feet that make him a feared pass-rusher, while Khyri Thornton is the veteran of the group with 23.5 tackles for a loss in 39 career games.

The linebacker position, which Duggan will coach, returns seniors Alan Howze and Dylan Reda, who combined for more than 120 tackles. The emerging star could be C.J. Perry, who signed with USM in February despite a strong push from TCU.

Seniors Jacorius Cotton and Deron Wilson will anchor the secondary. Wilson has eight career interceptions, three of which he has returned for scores.

**SPECIALISTS** Corey Acosta returns to handle the placekicking duties, but four-year punter Pete Boehme must be replaced. Acosta made 11-of-17 field goals last season, including a 51-yarder. Matthew Moseley, a transfer from Tennessee State, is listed at 5'10" and 159 pounds, but he possesses a strong leg and could move into the punting role. Among the biggest losses is return specialist Tracy Lampley.

**FINAL ANALYSIS** Not only does Monken inherit a team that was winless in 2012, but he also faces an early season challenge with consecutive road games against Nebraska, Arkansas and Boise State. Expect Monken to quickly restore some credibility on offense, where the Golden Eagles managed only 19.7 points and 322.8 yards per game a year ago. And expect the return of Duggan as defensive coordinator to address deficiencies there. The Eagles allowed a very un-Southern Miss-like 37.8 points and 426.5 yards per game in 2012.



Head Coach: Todd Monken  
Record at School: First Season  
Career Record: First Season  
Offensive Coordinator: Marcus Arroyo  
Defensive Coordinator: David Duggan  
Hattiesburg, MS  
M.M. Roberts Stadium (36,000)

**2013 SCHEDULE**

PROJECTION: 5-7, 4-4 (C-USA)

**August**

31 Texas State

**September**

7 at Nebraska

14 at Arkansas

28 at Boise State

**October**

5 FIU

19 at East Carolina

26 North Texas

**November**

2 at Marshall

9 at Louisiana Tech

16 Florida Atlantic

23 Middle Tennessee

30 at UAB

**2012 RESULTS (0-12, 0-8)**

Sept. 1	at Nebraska	L	20-49
Sept. 15	East Carolina	L	14-24
Sept. 22	at Western Kentucky	L	17-42
Sept. 29	Louisville	L	17-21
Oct. 6	Boise State	L	14-40
Oct. 13	at UCF	(at)	L 31-38
Oct. 20	Marshall	L	24-59
Oct. 27	at Rice	L	17-44
Nov. 3	UAB	L	19-27
Nov. 10	at SMU	L	6-34
Nov. 17	UTEP	L	33-34
Nov. 24	at Memphis	L	24-42

**TOP 10 RECRUITS**

1. Devin Farrior, OL, Waynesboro, MS
2. Rod Crayton, DT, Dadeville, AL
3. C.J. Perry, LB, Bessemer, AL
4. James Cox, WR, Tuscaloosa, AL
5. Branton Lee, WR, Tallahassee, FL
6. Frederick Moore, OL, Heidelberg, MS\*
7. Dylan Bradley, DE, Macon, MS
8. Draper Riley, TE, Harvey, LA
9. Christopher Robinson, DT, Shreveport, LA
10. JaMarcus Reeves, WR, Petal, MS

\*junior college transfer

**2012 RANKINGS**

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	19.7 ppg	12	110
Rushing	154.6 ypg	5	62
Passing	168.3 ypg	11	108
Total	322.8 ypg	10	106
Defense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	37.8 ppg	10	113
Rushing	207.5 ypg	11	108
Passing	219.0 ypg	2	43
Total	426.5 ypg	6	83
T0 Margin	Per Game	C-USA	National
-16	-1.33	12	115





Head Coach: Curtis Johnson  
Record at School: 2-10 (1 year)  
Career Record: 2-10 (1 year)  
Offensive Coordinator: Eric Price  
Co-Defensive Coordinators:  
Jon Sumrall, Lionel Washington  
New Orleans, LA  
Mercedes-Benz Superdome (69,703)

## 2013 SCHEDULE PROJECTION: 4-8, 2-6 (C-USA)

### August

31 Jackson State

### September

7 South Alabama  
12 at Louisiana Tech  
21 at Syracuse  
28 at UL Monroe

### October

5 North Texas  
12 East Carolina  
26 Tulsa

### November

2 at Florida Atlantic  
9 at UTSA  
23 UTEP  
30 at Rice

## 2012 RESULTS (2-10, 2-6)

Sept. 1	Rutgers	L	12-24
Sept. 8	at Tulsa	L	10-45
Sept. 22	Ole Miss	L	0-39
Sept. 29	UL Monroe	L	10-63
Oct. 6	at UL Lafayette	L	13-41
Oct. 13	SMU	W	27-26
Oct. 20	at UTEP	L	20-24
Oct. 27	UAB	W	55-45
Nov. 3	Rice	L	47-49
Nov. 10	at Memphis	L	23-37
Nov. 17	East Carolina	L	23-28
Nov. 24	at Houston	L	17-40

## TOP 10 RECRUITS

- Kenneth Santa Marina, OL, New Orleans, LA
- Edward Williams, LB, New Orleans, LA
- Nick Montana, QB, San Francisco, CA\*
- Sherman Badie, RB, New Orleans, LA
- Brandon Godfrey, OL, Kenner, LA
- Chris Taylor, OL, Baker, LA
- Tanzel Smart, DT, Baton Rouge, LA
- Ade Aruna, DE, LaPorte, IN
- Tristan Cooper, DB, Tampa, FL
- Eldrick Washington, DE, Harvey, LA

\*junior college transfer

## 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	21.4 ppg	10	97
Rushing	39.6 ypg	12	119
Passing	279.9 ypg	4	33
Total	319.5 ypg	11	109
Defense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	38.4 ppg	11	115
Rushing	222.9 ypg	12	114
Passing	259.7 ypg	9	95
Total	482.6 ypg	11	114
TO Margin	Per Game	C-USA	National
-9	-0.75	10	101

# Tulane GREEN WAVE

**OFFENSE** The Green Wave should be better offensively, even though quarterback Ryan Griffin is gone. The reason for this is simple: They figure to be better up front than in 2012, when they allowed 34 sacks, because they are a year older and a year stronger. Tulane could field five offensive linemen with starting experience. Mike Henry, Rio Mares, Sean Donnelly and Adam Skidmore each started at least 11 times last fall, and Zach Morgan, a veteran with 27 starts, returns after missing last season because of a shoulder injury.

Who replaces Griffin is the big question, but the good news is that each of the candidates played well in the spring, and the rest of the skill positions are filled with talent.

Junior college transfer Nick Montana, the son of NFL Hall of Famer Joe Montana, arrived in time for spring practice and was impressive. Montana originally signed with Washington but transferred to Mount San Antonio (Calif.) College after one season with the Huskies. The quarterback competition also includes sophomore Devin Powell, who started twice as a true freshman when Griffin was injured. Both give Tulane a dual-threat option — which Griffin didn't. But the most important thing for the quarterback to do is to get the football to a deep and talented group of receivers and to hand the ball off to stand-out running back Orleans Darkwa.

4.7

Tulane averaged only 4.7 yards per play last season to rank last in Conference USA and 115th nationally.

Senior Ryan Grant, who had 76 catches as a junior, is a returning All-C-USA selection and the top receiving threat. Darkwa is one of the premier running backs in the conference, provided he can remain healthy. The 6'0", 210-pound senior has more than 2,000 career yards

but played in only nine games last season because of a variety of injuries.

**DEFENSE** It's not hard to find the strength of a defense that struggled mightily in 2012. Tulane's secondary is filled with experience and ability. Cornerback Lorenzo Doss was a Freshman All-America selection last season, while safety Darion Monroe was chosen to the C-USA All-Freshman team. Jordan Batiste also returns after starting as a true freshman. Monroe, the team leader with 96 tackles last season, could be the key player on the Green Wave defense.

Tulane also has potential to be very good up front with defensive end Julius Warmesley, who has All-C-USA ability, anchoring the line along with Kenny Welcome and Chris Davenport, a 6'4", 330-pound graduate transfer from LSU who is especially intriguing.

Tulane is small but fast at linebacker. Senior Dominique Robertson is a three-year letterman who was named the Defensive MVP of spring practice. He'll lead the way from the middle linebacker spot and is flanked by veterans Matthew Bailey and Kyle Davis. Senior Zach Davis, who will back up Robertson, was second on the team with 78 tackles last season.

**SPECIALISTS** Kicker Cairo Santos returns after winning the 2012 Lou Groza Award. He made all 21 field goal attempts, including 12 from beyond 40 yards. The return game didn't have much spark last season and needs improvement.

**FINAL ANALYSIS** Curtis Johnson was 2-10 in his maiden season as a college head coach. It was a difficult year, even discounting the 10 losses, since the toughest thing he faced was the terrifying spinal cord injury suffered by senior safety Devon Walker. Johnson had to hold his team together while working through his own grief over Walker's devastating injury.

Now Johnson prepares for his second season with a roster that should be improved. If Montana or Powell plays well at quarterback and Darkwa remains healthy, the Green Wave could double their win total from a year ago.

NATIONAL FORECAST 109

C-USA WEST PREDICTION 5



RYAN GRANT

## THE QUOTE

"They just weren't very good, and they have a tough time recruiting. They have to fight a lot of schools there for kids in that area."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

## OFFENSE (7)

WR 80	Justyn Shackelford (Jr.)	82	Xavier Rush (Jr.)
WR 3	Ryan Grant (Sr.)	9	Wilson Van Hooser (Sr.)
LT 78	Todd Jacquet (So.)	75	Arturo Uzdavinis (So.)
LG 65	Zach Morgan (Sr.)	74	Adam Skidmore (Jr.)
C 64	Mike Henry (Sr.)	65	Zach Morgan (Sr.)
RG 72	Rio Mares (Sr.)	61	Colton Hanson (Fr.)
RT 70	Sean Donnelly (Jr.)	76	Nate Skold (So.)
TE 88	Matt Marfisi (Jr.)	81	Sydie London (So.)
QB 11	Nick Montana (Jr.)	1	Devin Powell (So.)
HB 24	Dante Butler (Jr.)	25	Josh Rounds (So.)
RB 26	Orleans Darkwa (Sr.)	33	Lazedrick Thompson (Fr.)

## DEFENSE (8)

DE 48	Royce LaFrance (So.)	41	Aaron Bryant (So.)
DT 93	Kenny Welcome (Jr.)	99	Calvin Thomas (So.)
NT 94	Chris Davenport (Sr.)	96	Corey Redwine (So.)
DE 92	Julius Warmesley (Sr.)	90	Wendell Beckwith (Sr.)
SLB 45	Matthew Bailey (Jr.)	47	Carmen DeJean (Jr.)
MLB 56	Dominique Robertson (Sr.)	57	Zach Davis (Sr.)
WLB 21	Kyle Davis (Sr.)	40	Taylor Butlock (Jr.)
CB 14	Jordan Batiste (So.)	13	Derrick Strozier (Sr.)
CB 6	Lorenzo Doss (So.)	22	Jordan Sullen (Sr.)
SS 5	Brandon LeBeau (Jr.)	35	Sam Scofield (Jr.)
FS 2	Darion Monroe (So.)	37	L.J. Parker (Sr.)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K 19	Cairo Santos (Sr.)	KR 24	Dante Butler (Jr.)
P 83	Peter Picerelli (So.)	PR 2	Darion Monroe (So.)

## RETURNING LEADERS

Passing: Devin Powell, 57-30-255-3, 1 TD  
Rushing: Rob Kelley, 81 att., 286 yds., 0 TDs  
Receiving: Ryan Grant, 76 rec., 1,149 yds., 6 TDs  
Tackles: Darion Monroe, 96  
Sacks: Julius Warmesley, 3  
Interceptions: Lorenzo Doss, 5

(#) Indicates number of returning starters • BOLD indicates returning starters





JACKIE WILLIAMS

#### THE QUOTE

"Coach [Garrick] McGee did a great job of implementing his offense from Arkansas, with a lot of shifts and motion."

— An opposing C-USA assistant coach

#### OFFENSE (6)

WR	1	Jamarcus Nelson (Jr.)	8	Nyiakki Height (So.)
WR	12	Nolen Smith (Jr.)	22	D.J. Vinson (Jr.)
WR	15	Jackie Williams (Sr.)		Maudrecus Humphrey (Jr.)
LT	60	Kaycee Ike (Sr.)	72	Wesley Carter (So.)
LG	71	Cameron Blankenship (So.)	56	Roscoe Byrd (So.)
C	54	Billy Autrey (Sr.)	65	Dominic Sylvester (So.)
RG	76	Brian O'Leary (Jr.)	57	John Hix (Jr.)
RT	77	Victor Salako (Fr.)	78	Aaron Green (Jr.)
TE	86	Kennard Backman (Jr.)	35	Grant Davis (Fr.)
QB	11	Austin Brown (So.)	14	Jonathan Perry (Sr.)
RB	5	Darrin Reaves (Jr.)	32	Bashr Coles (So.)

#### DEFENSE (8)

DE	48	Connor Boyett (Sr.)	18	Trey Grissett (Jr.)
DT	95	Deric Scott (Sr.)	55	Jontavious Morris (So.)
DE	46	Diaheem Watkins (Jr.)	90	Chris Walton (Jr.)
OLB	4	Jake Ganus (So.)	25	Destin Challenger (So.)
ILB	47	Patrick Bastien (Sr.)	34	Daniel White (Sr.)
ILB	42	Shaq Jones (So.)	51	Jesse Parrish (Sr.)
OLB	33	Derek Slaughter (So.)	31	Tevin Crews (So.)
CB	3	Lamarcus Farmer (So.)	13	Darius Powell (So.)
CB	21	Kelton Brackett (So.)	19	Devon Brown (So.)
S	11	Calvin Jones (Sr.)		T.J. McCollum (Fr.)
S	10	Vashon Landers (So.)	9	Jay Davis (Jr.)

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	2	Ty Long (Jr.)	KR	24	Greg Franklin (Sr.)
P	36	Hunter Mullins (Jr.)	PR	15	Jackie Williams (Sr.)

#### RETURNING LEADERS

**Passing:** Austin Brown, 355-205, 2,673-12, 15 TDs  
**Rushing:** Darrin Reaves, 215 att., 1,037 yds., 13 TDs  
**Receiving:** Jackie Williams, 52 rec., 799 yds., 1 TD  
**Tackles:** Calvin Jones, 71  
**Sacks:** Connor Boyett, 3  
**Interceptions:** Jake Ganus, 1; Derek Slaughter, 1

# UAB BLAZERS

**OFFENSE** Austin Brown returns for his second season as UAB's starting quarterback after being selected to the C-USA All-Freshman team a year ago. At least Brown, who fought through a variety of injuries to throw for 2,673 yards and 15 touchdowns, is penciled in as the starter, but that could change at some point between the opening of fall camp and the first kickoff of the season. Senior Jonathan Perry, who started eight games in 2011 and was the starter heading into last season, is pushing Brown. The depth is excellent at quarterback with the addition of freshman Jeremiah Briscoe and junior college transfer Myles McKee.

Darrin Reaves should once again carry the load after becoming only the second running back in the program's history to eclipse the 1,000-yard mark. But Reaves, who has a solid mixture of strength and speed, is just part of a crowded backfield that also includes versatile senior Greg Franklin, physical sophomore Bashr Coles and promising freshman Jordan Howard. Fullback Santonio Jones, a former walk-on linebacker, is an excellent blocker.

Senior wide receiver Jackie Williams, who has 140 career catches, is one of the top receivers in the conference. He'll lead a strong group that is bolstered by the return of Nolen Smith, who can play either tight end or wide receiver, from a knee injury that kept him out last season. Tight end Kennard Backman should be one of the team's top targets. He caught 23 passes for 235 yards and four scores as a sophomore.

UAB lost its best lineman — tackle Chris Hubbard — to graduation but returns virtually everyone else. Redshirt freshman tackle Victor Salako could be a star in the future, but this year's line is built around center Billy Autrey and tackle Kaycee Ike.

**DEFENSE** UAB will change its look at times — lining up in a 3-4 and 4-3 — in hopes of improving a defense that wasn't very good last season. Replacing middle linebacker Marvin Burdette, the school's career leader in tackles, won't be easy, but the Blazers should be good at linebacker. Sophomore Shaq Jones and seniors Daniel White and Patrick Bastien will anchor the middle while outside linebackers include converted safety Jake Ganus, Tevin Crews, Destin Challenger and Derek Slaughter.

The defensive front is potentially a strength with returning regulars Deric Scott, Connor Boyett, Diaheem Watkins and Chris Walton. Jontavious Morris and Chris Rabb are proven as well.

Senior safety Calvin Jones will provide leadership for a young secondary. Sophomore cornerback Lamarcus Farmer, a former walk-on, was one of the more consistent secondary players a year ago despite playing through injuries. Sophomores Kelton Brackett and Devon Brown should be much better after a year of college seasoning.

**SPECIALISTS** Ty Long is one of the more consistent kickers in Conference USA. The steady junior was 30-of-36 on field goal attempts in his first two seasons and was much more effective on kickoffs as a sophomore. Punter Hunter Mullins ranked 12th nationally with a 44.8-yard average, but the Blazers ranked 114th in the nation in net punting (33.5-yard average).

**FINAL ANALYSIS** UAB will be better in Garrick McGee's second season as the head coach. Will that show in the win-loss column? It should, even though the Blazers' non-conference slate includes trips to SEC members LSU and Vanderbilt and in-state rival Troy during the first four weeks of the season. If the Blazers are healthy after that stretch, they could threaten to finish in the upper echelon of the revamped Conference USA. If not, then it could be another difficult season.



Head Coach: Garrick McGee  
 Record at School: 3-9 (1 year)  
 Career Record: 3-9 (1 year)  
 Offensive Coordinator: Richard Owens  
 Defensive Coordinator: Reggie Johnson  
 Birmingham, AL  
 Legion Field (72,000)

#### 2013 SCHEDULE PROJECTION: 5-7, 4-4 (C-USA)

##### August

31 at Troy

##### September

7 at LSU

21 Northwestern State

28 at Vanderbilt

##### October

5 Florida Atlantic

12 at FIU

26 at UTSA

##### November

2 Middle Tennessee

9 at Marshall

16 at East Carolina

23 Rice

30 Southern Miss

#### 2012 RESULTS (3-9, 2-6)

Sept. 1	Troy	L	29-39
Sept. 15	at South Carolina	L	6-49
Sept. 22	at Ohio State	L	15-29
Sept. 29	Tulsa	L	42-49
Oct. 6	SE Louisiana	W	52-3
Oct. 13	at Houston	L	17-39
Oct. 20	East Carolina	L	35-42
Oct. 27	at Tulane	L	45-55
Nov. 3	at Southern Miss	W	27-19
Nov. 10	Marshall	W	38-31
Nov. 17	Memphis	L	9-46
Nov. 24	at UCF	L	24-49

#### TOP 10 RECRUITS

1. T.J. McCollum, S, Birmingham, AL
2. Vincent Hunter, OL, Memphis, TN
3. Je'Niah Jackson, LB, Hoover, AL
4. Jamari Staples, WR, Lineville, AL
5. Kingsley Ejike, DE, Covington, GA
6. Brandon Fuller, LB, Birmingham, AL
7. Jeremiah Briscoe, QB, Houston, TX
8. J.J. Green, WR, Florence, AL
9. Tristan Henderson, TE, Los Alamitos, CA\*
10. Jordan Howard, RB, Gardendale, AL

\*junior college transfer

#### 2012 RANKINGS

Offense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	28.3 ppg	8	67
Rushing	110.3 ypg	11	109
Passing	308.8 ypg	3	19
Total	419.1 ypg	5	50
Defense	Per Game	C-USA	National
Scoring	37.5 ppg	9	111
Rushing	182.7 ypg	6	80
Passing	244.6 ypg	5	77
Total	427.3 ypg	7	84

TO Margin	Per Game	C-USA	National
-9	-0.75	10	101



# THE BACK PAGE

## TOP 15 BCS ERA QUARTERBACKS

As the BCS era comes to a close this season, *Athlon Sports* looks back at the quarterbacks who have redefined the position since 1998. Pure pocket passers, running threats and the best of both worlds set the tone for the BCS era, which started with Michael Vick and will end with Johnny Manziel.

We looked at career achievements and longevity, statistical production, championships and overall talent and ability in our rankings of the best quarterback careers of the BCS era.

### 1. VINCE YOUNG, TEXAS (2003-05)

Young only hinted at what was to come with his MVP performance in the Rose Bowl against Michigan as a sophomore. He capped his junior season as an All-American and Heisman runner-up, defeating the winner (USC's Reggie Bush) with a performance for the ages in the BCS national title game — 267 passing yards, 200 rushing yards and three TDs.

### 2. TIM TEBOW, FLORIDA (2006-09)

The top two quarterbacks are a cut above the rest, as Tebow is the only player who can challenge Young for top honors. The first sophomore to win the Heisman in 2007, Tebow won a national title in 2008 and owns the SEC career records for total offense, total touchdowns, rushing touchdowns and passing efficiency.

### 3. MATT LEINART, USC (2002-05)

Leinart won two national titles in three seasons when USC was at its best under Pete Carroll. Leinart won the Heisman in 2004 and finished in the top six in 2003 and 2005.

### 4. ANDREW LUCK, STANFORD (2009-11)

Few players have meant more to their school than Luck meant to Stanford. He led his program to its first BCS bowl win and set several school passing records. The two-time Pac-12 Offensive Player of the Year finished second in the Heisman twice (2010, '11) and won the Unitas, Walter Camp and Maxwell awards in 2011.

### 5. ROBERT GRIFFIN III, BAYLOR (2008-11)

Luck and RG3 will be linked in football history after finishing first and second for the Heisman in 2011 (won by Griffin) and going first and second in the NFL Draft in 2012 (this one went to Luck). His impact on Baylor is immeasurable. Had he been healthy for his entire career — he missed nine games in 2009 — his numbers might have been the best of the BCS era.

### 6. MICHAEL VICK, VIRGINIA TECH (1999-00)

The Hokie revolutionized the quarterback position, leading Virginia Tech to its only BCS national title game appearance as a redshirt freshman with unprecedented foot speed and arm strength — finishing third in the Heisman race and opening the door for another dazzling second-year freshman in Johnny Manziel.



### 7. AJ MCCARRON, ALABAMA (2010-13)

McCarron already has two BCS titles as a starter, earning title game MVP honors in the rematch against LSU. Nick Saban's system prevents McCarron from posting the numbers of others on this list, so he may never get the recognition he deserves despite leading the nation in passing efficiency and throwing 30 TD passes to three interceptions in 2012.

### 8. CHRIS WEINKE, FLORIDA STATE (1997-00)

There was little left unaccomplished in Weinke's college career. He led Florida State to an undefeated BCS national title in 1999 over Virginia Tech before returning to win the Heisman in 2000. The Seminoles lost two games over that span, one of them the BCS title game against Oklahoma.

### 9. SAM BRADFORD, OKLAHOMA (2007-09)

The 3-star recruit didn't need much time to establish himself as an Oklahoma great. Bradford led the Sooners to a Big 12 title as a rookie with a freshman-record 36 touchdown passes. He became the second sophomore to win the Heisman in 2008 and set the career record for passing efficiency.

### 10. CAM NEWTON, FLORIDA (2007-08), AUBURN (2010)

Had this been a list of best individual seasons by quarterbacks, Newton would have been near the top after leading Auburn to a national title in 2010. He had only one season of significant action at the FBS level, but what a season it was: a Heisman Trophy, 50 total TDs and 4,327 yards of total offense.

### 11. KELLEN MOORE, BOISE STATE (2008-11)

Moore went 50-3 as a starter, including a 14-0 season in 2009. He's second in career touchdown passes (142) to Houston's Case Keenum.

### 12. RUSSELL WILSON, NC STATE (2008-10), WISCONSIN (2011)

Wilson excelled for two schools, including winning a Big Ten crown at Wisconsin. He threw at least one touchdown pass in a record 38 games.

### 13. COLT MCCOY, TEXAS (2006-09)

McCoy twice finished in the top three of the Heisman voting and finished his career as the all-time wins leader (45) before Kellen Moore broke his record. He threw for 112 touchdowns and rushed for 20 more during his career.

### 14. PAT WHITE, WEST VIRGINIA (2005-08)

White earned Big East Player of the Year honors twice and became the first QB in NCAA history to start and win four bowl games. He finished sixth and seventh in the Heisman voting in 2006 and '07 and has a Big East-record 103 total touchdowns.

### 15. DREW BREES, PURDUE (1997-2000)

The two-time Big Ten Player of the Year led Purdue back to the Rose Bowl and finished among the top four in Heisman voting twice (1999, 2000). Brees is the Big Ten's all-time leader in completions, passing yards, passing TDs, total yards and total TDs.





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